Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-083 *3 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russian, French Foreign Ministers Discuss Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Churkin Arrives in Athens for Yugoslav Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Commentator Warns U.S. Against 2d Vietnam in FRY *[Moscow TV]* 1
Commentary of Possibility of Force in Bosnia *[Moscow Radio]* 2
Further International Reaction to Referendum 2
Commentary Urges U.S. Aid *[Moscow International]* 2
Kohl on Yeltsin Referendum Victory *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Iranian Press Reaction Assessed *[Moscow International]* 3
Two More Submarines To Be Delivered to Iran *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
10 Documents To Be Signed if Yeltsin Visits Japan in May *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Kuril Island Official Seeks Aid From Hokkaido *[Vladivostok Radio]* 4
Withdrawal of Japanese Finance Suspends Zarubino Port Project *[Vladivostok Radio]* 4
Talks on Radioactive Dumping Scheduled With Japan *[Moscow International]* 5
Russian General Arrives in Washington for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Minister of Nuclear Energy Leaves for U.S. Visit 3 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Contract To Launch U.S. Satellite Signed *[Moscow International]* 5
Churkin Says Latvia's Actions Unacceptable *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
New Humanitarian Effort Planned for Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Foreign Ministry Denies Russian Tilt to Armenia *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
DPRK Party Secretary Reportedly Wants Talks With U.S. *[Moscow International]* 6
DPRK Concerned About Russian Radioactive Dumping *[Moscow International]* 7
Russian, Cuban Officials Discuss Relations *[Havana Radio]* 7
Cuban ELINT Site Subject of Talks *[Moscow TV]* 7
Russian Envoy Discusses Cyprus Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Envoy Arrives in South Africa for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 7

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

May Day Activities

Pro-Communist Organizations Hold Rally in Moscow 9
Clashes Between Militia, Opposition *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Injuries Reported in Clash *[Russian TV]* 9
Moscow Official Views Clashes *[Russian TV]* 9
OMON Member Reported Killed *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Over 70 Militiamen Said Injured *[Moscow Radio]* 10
Prosecutor's Office Begins Investigation *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Kostikov Issues Statement *[Moscow Radio]* 10
Luzhkov: Armed Groups Among Demonstrators *[Moscow TV]* 11
Rally Begins Again Outside Parliament *[Moscow International]* 11
CPSU Scores Yeltsin's 'Bloody Battle' *[Radio Rossii]* 11
Khasbulatov Spokesman Issues Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Anpilov Addresses White House Gathering *[Moscow TV]* 12
White House Rally Continues 2 May *[Radio Rossii]* 12
Prosecutor's Office Inquiry Detailed *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Nearly 500 Gather at White House *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Actions of Authorities Condemned *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
RDRM Blames 'National-Communist Forces' *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Opposition Cited; Injured Recuperating *[Moscow Radio]* 13
Anpilov Calls For 'Anti-Yeltsin Graffiti' *[ITAR-TASS]* 14

Opposition Urges Parliament To Convene *[Moscow TV]* 14
Zyuganov To Meet Chernomyrdin *[Radio Rossii]* 14
Parliament Linked With Demonstrations *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Opposition Applies For 9 May Rally *[Moscow Radio]* 15
Filatov on Consequences of Events *[Moscow TV]* 15
Repercussions of Disturbances Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 16
White House Rally Continues 3 May *[Radio Rossii]* 16
Russian Communists Demand Investigation *[Moscow TV]* 17
Yeltsin, Luzhkov Urged To Resign *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Low Attendance at Trade Unions' May Day Meeting *[Russian TV]* 17
Rally Takes Place 'Calmly' *[Moscow TV]* 17
ITAR-TASS Rounds up Celebrations Throughout Russia 17
Chita Official Faults Authorities for Riots *[ITAR-TASS]* 18

Political Issues

Yeltsin May Be 'Forced' To Ban Communist Groups *[Moscow International]* 18
Presidential Council Session Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 Apr]* 18
Kozyrev Cited on Russian Foreign Policy Concept *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 29 Apr]* 19
New Concept Outlined *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 20
Kostikov: Yeltsin To Call Constitutional Assembly *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 21
Shakhray: Yeltsin Has Sole Right To Redraft Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 22
Shakhray Views Post-Referendum Constitutional Options *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Rumyantsev Comments on Draft Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 23
Gavriil Popov Views Yeltsin Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Academician: Congress Must Participate in Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Institute Researcher Advocates New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Parliamentary Opposition Seen Adopting Own Constitution
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 30 Apr] 24

Referendum Issues

Poltoranin Outlines Yeltsin's Post-Referendum Plans *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Democratic Party of Russia Supports Early Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Shakhray Discusses Results of Referendum *[Moscow TV]* 26
Khasbulatov Analyzes Referendum Results *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 27
Opposition Leaders' Constituents Voted for Yeltsin *[IZVESTIYA 30 Apr]* 31
Officials Interviewed on Results of Referendum *[Moscow TV]* 31

Supreme Soviet

Soviet of Nationalities Discusses Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Media Committee Statement Condemns Abolition *[Moscow TV]* 35
Parliament To Work 5-7 May, Rest 8-10 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Deputy Views 'Self-Destruction' of Supreme Soviet *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Abdulatipov Discusses Caucasus Resolution *[Russian TV]* 36
Abdulatipov Views Post-Referendum Situation *[Russian TV]* 36
Abdulatipov Comments on Work With Regions *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 37
Parliament Response to Yeltsin Constitution Bid Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 30 Apr]* 39
Constitutional Panel's Rumyantsev on Working Group *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 40
Commentary Notes Supreme Soviet Movement on Media *[Russian TV]* 40
Sokolov Assails Government Economic Record *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 41

Regional Affairs

Chechen Court Issues Recommendations to Dudayev *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Chechen Deputies Grant Speaker's Request To Resign *[Moscow Radio]* 43
Groznyy Administration Rejects Dudayev Decree on Assembly *[Moscow Radio]* 43
Dudayev Supporters, Opponents Hold Groznyy Rallies *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Dudayev Blames Chechen Parliament for Russian Talks Failure *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Yeltsin, Mordovian President Discuss Power Crisis *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 30 Apr]* 44

Mordovian President Removed From Post, Works With Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Kalmykia's President Declares Soviet Power Over *[Russian TV]* 44
Recounts Meeting With Yeltsin *[Moscow TV]* 45
Views Democracy, Reforms *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 45
Moscow Court Orders Suspension of DEN *[Radio Rossii]* 46
Moscow Mayor: Time for 'Vigorous Actions' From President *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
St. Petersburg Mayor Supports Yeltsin on Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Council Submits Initiative *[Radio Rossii]* 46

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Foreign Ministry Rebuts Minister's Remark on Nuclear Status *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 29 Apr]* 47
Kravchuk, U.S. Industrialist Discuss Oil Refining *[UKRINFORM]* 47
Kravchuk, Kuchma Evaluate Recent CIS Summit *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 47
Kravchuk Meets Hungarian Premier in Transcarpathia *[ITAR-TASS]* 47

National Affairs

Republican Party Holds Congress, Elects Leaders *[Kiev International]* 48
Congress Ends *[Kiev International]* 48
New Presidential Kiev Representative Assumes Duties *[Kiev International]* 49

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

Leaders Hail Referendum Results in Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
14th Army Commander Lebed Reportedly Removed From Post *[Russian TV]* 50
Tiraspol Denies Lebed's Recall to Moscow *[BASAPRESS]* 50
Lebed Explains Recall *[Moscow TV]* 50
Lebed Said To Return to Tiraspol 6 May *[BASAPRESS]* 50
Chisinau Signs Accord With U.S. To Protect Investments *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Dniester Leader Seeks Talks With Moldova *[Radio Rossii]* 51

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Favors 'Collective Defense' of CIS Countries *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Supreme Soviet Chairman Comments on China Visit *[PRAVDA 29 Apr]* 52
Internal Affairs Ministry Fights Crime, Corruption *[KAZTAG]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Congratulates Yeltsin on Referendum Victory *[Yerevan International]* 54
Spokesman Blames Azerbaijan for Failure of CSCE Talks *[Yerevan Radio]* 54
Foreign Ministry Welcomes UN Karabakh Resolution *[Radio Rossii]* 54
Defense Ministry Says Turkey Sending Troops, Equipment to Baku *[Moscow Radio]* 54
Karabakh Troops Paritially Withdraw From Kelbadzhar *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Cease-Fire Reportedly Still Holding in Karabakh *[Yerevan International]* 55
Karabakh Forces Said Ordered Not To Open Fire *[SNARK]* 55
Karabakh Supreme Soviet Presidium Meets; Elections 16 May *[SNARK]* 55
President Appoints New Adviser *[Yerevan Radio]* 55

Azerbaijan

'Favorable' Reaction to UN Resolution Reported *[AZERTAC]* 55

Deputies Hold Extraordinary Session in Gyandzha *[TURAN]* 56
Elchibey Expresses Gratitude for Yeltsin's Mediation *[Baku TV]* 56
New Prime Minister Outlines Goals, Announces New Post *[AZERTAC]* 56
Nakhichevan's Aliyev Opposes Choice of Guseynov *[TURAN]* 56
Parliament Adopts Resolution on New Government Structure *[Baku Radio]* 56
'Text' of Resolution *[Baku Radio]* 57
Opposition Parties Issue Statement on Political Situation *[ASSA-IRADA]* 57

Georgia

Shevardnadze Says Sukhumi Reinforced, Calls For End to Shelling *[Radio Rossii]* 57
Shevardnadze Escapes Artillery Bombardment in Sukhumi *[Radio Rossii]* 58
Shevardnadze Warns of Military Action if Bombings Continue *[Tbilisi Radio]* 58
Troops Fight 'Intensive Skirmishes' With Abkhazian Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Government Troops Attack Abkhaz Positions *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Russian Army Spokesman Reacts to 'Hard-Line' Troop Policy *[SNARK]* 59
Russian Troops To Guard Own Facilities *[SNARK]* 59
Commentary Views Russian Statement on Sukhumi Situation *[Tbilisi Radio]* 59
Abkhazian Councils Appeal to International Observers *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Shevardnadze Calls For Enhancing Role of Black Sea States *[ITAR-TASS]* 60

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-084 *4 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CSCE Meeting on Armenia, Azerbaijan Viewed *[Yerevan International]* 1
Central European Defense Ministers Meet in Riga *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Latvia's Gorbunovs Opens Meeting *[Riga Radio]* 1
Further on Gorbunovs' Address *[LETA]* 1
Security Issues Discussed *[BNS]* 2
Ministers Discuss Military Issues *[Riga Radio]* 2
Delegate Explains Difficulties at Human Rights Forum *[ITAR-TASS]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Papers Assess Minsk Heads of State Summit 3
Reciprocal Transactions Issue Unresolved *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 3
Committee Strengthens Economic Ties *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 Apr]* 3
'Yeltsin Nucleus' Blocking Integration *[PRAVDA 30 Apr]* 4
Shaposhnikov Attendance at NATO Session Questioned *[PRAVDA 30 Apr]* 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Churkin Sees Better Prospects for Bosnian Settlement *[Moscow Radio]* 6
Bosnian Serb Official on Settlement Prospects *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 4 May]* 6
Clinton, Yeltsin Urged To Heed Opposition on Bosnia *[SEGODNYA 4 May]* 6
Kozyrev, Portugal's Barroso Discuss Bosnia, Angola *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Envoy Continues Visit to South Africa 7
Meets ANC Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Talks With Counterpart *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Statement on Latvian Rights Breaches Detailed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 8
World Bank Ends Talks on Oil Industry Investment *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 8

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

May Day Activities

Further Reportage on May Day Demonstrations 9
Opposition Forces End Picketing *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Statement *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Kozyrev Calls For Trial *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Medical Authorities' Statement *[Moscow Radio]* 9
Investigation Under Way *[Moscow TV]* 10
Provocations To Be 'Ruthlessly Suppressed' *[SEGODNYA 4 May]* 10
OMON Major Describes Disturbance *[Radio Rossii]* 11
PRAVDA Reports 'Bloody Carnage' *[4 May]* 12
'Working Russia' Leader Interviewed *[PRAVDA 4 May]* 12
Clashes May Aggravate Power Crisis *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 13
Moscow Prosecutor: Riots Planned *[SEGODNYA 4 May]* 14
Demonstrators 'Ordinary Citizens' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 15
Organizers of Disturbances Derided *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 15

Political Issues

Democratic Union Calls For Direct Presidential Rule *[Radio Rossii]* 16

Yeltsin as Head of Crime, Corruption Commission Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 30 Apr]* 16
Yeltsin Aide on New Constitution's Merits *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Apr]* 17
Poltoranian Wants Khasbulatov, Rutskoy Out *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 18
Opposition Highlights Minority Support for Yeltsin *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 20
DPR Leader Cited on Election Support Foundation *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 20
Judge Hits Congress Over Referendum Procedure *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 21
Referendum Seen Legitimizing Change *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 22

Economic Issues

BBC Interviews Gaydar on Course of Reforms *[London TV]* 25
Yeltsin Prepares Decree for Economic Support to Media *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Government Says Republics To Pay World Fuel Prices *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Further on Oil Industry Workers Congress *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 26
Oil Producers Want Tariffs Cut, Transport Improved *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 26
Minimum Pension Raised to 8,122 Rubles 1 May *[Moscow Radio]* 27
Central Bank Steps Up Oversight of Banking Operations *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 27
Official Views 'Positive' Results of Privatization *[Moscow Radio]* 28

Military Issues

Top Pacific Fleet Officers Receive Promotions *[Vladivostok Radio]* 28
Regular Service Troops Will Move To Contract Hire *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 29 Apr]* 29
Northern Fleet Leads in Recruiting Contract Servicemen *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 29 Apr]* 29
Submarines To Be Used as Tankers in Arctic *[Moscow International]* 29
Opposing Views on Recycling Nuclear Submarine Hulls *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 29

Supreme Soviet

Imports From CIS States Exempt From VAT *[Moscow Radio]* 30
Parliament Passes Law on International Treaties *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 30 Apr]* 30
Parliament Overrides Yeltsin Veto, Passes Protection Law *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 29 Apr]* 31
Media Committee Deputies Criticize Reorganization *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 31

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Meets, Talks With Zelenograd Residents *[Russian TV]* 32
Cited on 'Harsh Measures' *[Moscow TV]* 32
Yeltsin Repeals Decrees Dismissing Administration Heads *[Moscow Radio]* 32
St. Petersburg Thinks Communists Would Do Worse *[Radio Rossii]* 32
New Fuel Restrictions Introduced in St. Petersburg *[Moscow Radio]* 33
Moscow CP Leader Interviewed on Party Work *[PRAVDA 30 Apr]* 33
Legislature-Executive Conflict in Chelyabinsk Worsens *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 30 Apr]* 34
Tatarstan Referendum Vote Said Cast for 'Sovereignty' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 35
Khabarovsk Official Supports Draft Constitution *[Moscow Radio]* 35
Vote on Bashkortostan's Extra Referendum Question Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 35
Kabardino-Balkaria Aide on Extent of Anti-Yeltsin Vote *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 36
'Yeltsinite' Elected Head of Krasnoyarsk Administration *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 36
Caucasians, Cossacks Agree To 'Assist Peaceful Path' *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 37
Ingush President Demands Mediatory Action From Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Former Communist Activist Elected Smolensk Governor *[PRAVDA 30 Apr]* 38
Karelia Increases Exports, Cuts Foreign Trade Turnover *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
TV Shows Pro-, Anti-Dudayev Rallies in Groznyy *[Moscow TV]* 38
Company Pulls Out of Komi Venture, Retains Interest *[Russian TV]* 39
Moscow Deputies Demand Upholding Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 39
Regional Heads Said Supporting Draft Constitution *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 39

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Cabinet Invalidates Commission for Nuclear Talks With Russia *[Kiev International]* 41
Kravchuk Discusses Nuclear Weapons, Russian Relations *[Budapest PESTI HIRLAP 3 May]* 41
Kravchuk Holds Meeting With German Businessmen *[UKRINFORM]* 41

National Affairs

Commission To Submit New Constitution Draft to Parliament *[Kiev International]* 42
Debates Process of Adopting Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 42
Morozov: State Must Care for Army, Not Businessmen *[ITAR-TASS]* 42

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

French Team Arrives To Monitor Destruction of MiG-27's *[Minsk Radio]* 43
Planes Said 'Burden' to Taxpayers *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Council of Europe's Lalumiere Meets Kravchenko, Shushkevich *[Moscow TV]* 43
Ends Visit *[Radio Rossii]* 43
Kebich Receives Chernomyrdin Apology for PRAVDA Article *[Minsk Radio]* 43

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Discusses Military Issues *[KAZTAG]* 44

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev No Longer To Head Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Republic To Introduce Own Currency *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

Tajikistan

Afghan Mojahedin Shoot Down Su-24 With Stinger Missile *[Radio Rossii]* 45
Spokesman Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Government Forces Continue Operations Against Opposition *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Surround Armed Group *[Dushanbe Radio]* 46

Uzbekistan

President Views Outcome of Visit to Germany *[Moscow TV]* 46

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President's Envoy Questions Relevance of Karabakh Proposals *[Moscow Radio]* 47
Shelling of Settlements, Troop Concentration Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 47
Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Forces Shell Ararat Villages *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
President Meets British Archbishop, Discusses Situation *[Yerevan Radio]* 47

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Briefs Press on Military Operations, UN Resolution *[Baku Radio]* 48
Praises 3-Way Karabakh Initiative *[ASSA-IRADA]* 48
Presidential Adviser Welcomes UN Resolution *[TURAN]* 48
New Prime Minister Favors Renewed Relationship With Russia *[SEGODNYA 4 May]* 48

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Military Situation *[Tbilisi Radio]* 49
Directive on Members of Russian Army Withdrawal Commission
[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 27 Apr] 51
Shevardnadze Orders Creation of Abkhazian Defense Council
[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 29 Apr] 52
Ardzinba Criticizes Georgians' 'Lack of Trust' *[Russian TV]* 52
Abkhaz Defense Council Statement on 'Retaliatory' Strikes
[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY] 52
Government Forces Return Fire After Sukhumi Shelled *[Tbilisi Radio]* 53
UN Representatives Visit Sukhumi *[Tbilisi Radio]* 53
First Group of Border Officers Graduates *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 27 Apr]* 53

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Moscow Pressured To Remove Nuclear Reactors From Naval Base *[Moscow TV]* 54
Retired U.S. Colonel To Head Defense Forces *[Radio Rossii]* 54
Confirmed as Chief of Staff *[Tallinn Radio]* 54

Latvia

Gorbunovs Receives Ukrainian Defense Minister *[Riga Radio]* 54
Concludes Friendship, Cooperation Accord *[BNS]* 54
U.S. Army Officers Visit Defense Ministry *[Riga Radio]* 54
Foreign Minister: Main Tasks Involve Opening Embassies *[Riga Radio]* 54
Government Issues Temporary Permits to Russian Servicemen *[IZVESTIYA 30 Apr]* 55
Economic Cooperation Accord Initialed With Romania *[BNS]* 55

Lithuania

Government Discusses Recall of Ambassador to U.S. *[BNS]* 55
Landsbergis Condemns Ambassador's Recall *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Acting Charge Appointed *[Vilnius Radio]* 56
Envoy Invites Brazauskas To Visit Russia *[Vilnius Radio]* 56
Brazauskas Receives European Parliament Delegation *[BNS]* 56
Brazauskas Notes Agricultural Output Down 33 Percent *[BNS]* 57
Brazauskas, Bank Chairman Introduce National Currency *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 57
Lita Committee Places Orders for New National Currency
[BNS BALTIC BUSINESS WEEKLY] 57
Economy Minister Presents Economic Program *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Landsbergis Urges Review of Pacts To Be Signed With Russia *[BNS]* 59

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-084-A *4 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Bosnia Settlement on Phone *[INTERFAX]* 1
Churkin on Christopher Visit, Relations With U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 1
Prime Minister, Gore Likely To Meet in Moscow in May *[INTERFAX]* 1
Shokhin: Grain Credit 'Most Important Result' of U.S. Trip *[INTERFAX]* 1
'Tixi 93' Participants Propose Joint Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 2
Churkin on Russian Concern at Latvian Residency Policy *[BALTFAX]* 2
Foreign Ministry Calls Baku's Claims 'Totally Intolerable' *[INTERFAX]* 3
Further on Baku Claims *[INTERFAX]* 3
Ministry Reports Proposals for Azerbaijan-Armenia Peace *[INTERFAX]* 3
Chelyabinsk-65 Reportedly To Receive Iraqi Nuclear Waste
[London THE INDEPENDENT 2 May] 3
Foreign Ministry Official on Ties With Japan *[Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN 30 Apr]* 4

Russia National Affairs

Participants in May Day Clashes Released, To Be Fined *[INTERFAX]* 5
Commission To Investigate Clashes *[INTERFAX]* 5
Yeltsin Aide Volkogonov Urges Deputies To Dissolve Congress *[INTERFAX]* 5
Constitutional Court Judge Ametistov Comments on Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 5
Liberal Democratic Party Leader Welcomes Referendum Results *[INTERFAX]* 6
Second Quarter Budget Deficit To Top 2.2 Trillion Rubles *[INTERFAX]* 6

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Orders Federal Aid for Mordovia's President *[INTERFAX]* 6
Parliament Urged To Consider Relations With Chechnya *[INTERFAX]* 7
New Chechen Parliament Leader Calls For End to Rallies *[INTERFAX]* 7
Kalmyk Republic To Set Up 'Professional Parliament' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Security Ministry Dismisses Reports on Kalmykia Activities *[INTERFAX]* 8
Tatarstan Democrats Dispute Results of Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 8
Tatar Premier Says Negotiations With Moscow Continue *[INTERFAX]* 8

Ukraine International Affairs

Republican Party Urges Retention of Nuclear Weapons *[INTERFAX]* 9
Kiev Favorably Assesses CIS Premiers' Meeting in Minsk *[INTERFAX]* 9
Firms To Cooperate in Scientific Field With U.S. *[RIA]* 9

Kazakhstan

Envoy Says DPRK 'Forced' To Leave Nonproliferation Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 9
Large Arms Cache Found in Almaty Region *[INTERFAX]* 10
Conference on Moscow-Almaty Relations Opens *[INTERFAX]* 10
Meskhetian Turks Repatriated From Almaty *[INTERFAX]* 10

Armenia

Foreign Ministry on CSCE Talks on Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 10
Nagorno-Karabakh Stresses Participation in Settlement Talks *[INTERFAX]* 11

Azerbaijan

Baku Denies Report of Plans To Join CIS Assembly *[INTERFAX]* 11
New Prime Minister Says Government Reshuffle To Continue *[INTERFAX]* 11

Georgia

Shevardnadze Comments on Solution of Abkhazian Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 12
Kitovani: Yeltsin-Shevardnadze Summit Could End Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 12
Shevardnadze Says Civil War Possible in Russia *[INTERFAX]* 12
Tbilisi Condemns Russian Statement on Ethnic Discrimination *[INTERFAX]* 13

Lithuania

Vilnius, Riga Begin Talks To Return to Pre-WW II Borders *[BALTFAX]* 13
Parliamentary Speaker Comments on Clashes in Moscow *[BALTFAX]* 13
Opposition Leader Comments on Future Accords With Russia *[BALTFAX]* 13

Video Tapes Available From FBIS TV Center 13

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-085 *5 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 May 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Secretary of State Christopher Arrives in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Hopes for Talks Previewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 5 May]* 2
Christopher Meets With Yeltsin *[Moscow Radio]* 2
Press Secretary on Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Christopher, Kozyrev Talks Begin *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Joint Press Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Paper Hails Diplomatic Role in Vance-Owen Acceptance *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 4
Vice President Gore Cited on Support for Russia Reforms *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 5
CIA's Changed Role Since USSR's Demise Eyed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 May]* 5
Program Examines Clinton's First 100 Days *[Moscow TV]* 6
PRAVDA Notes Americans' Dissatisfaction *[4 May]* 8
Easing of U.S. Grain Supply Terms Achieved *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 9
U.S. Unit in Japan Tracking Russian Satellites *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Efforts To Arrange Yeltsin Japan Visit Continue *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 10
Hopes for Visit 'Dwindling' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 May]* 11
New Arrangements for Financing Japanese Aid *[IZVESTIYA 30 Apr]* 12
Fyodorov Meets Portuguese Foreign Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Silva Visit, Angola Discussed *[Lisbon Radio]* 12
Grachev, French Navy Chief of Staff Hold Talks *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 May]* 13
Background to Foreign Ministry Protest to Georgia *[SEGODNYA 4 May]* 13
Moscow, Warsaw Sign Friendship Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Filatov Meets With UN Legal Experts *[ITAR-TASS]* 14

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

May Day Activities

Further Reportage on May Day Events 15
Khasbulatov Addresses Nation *[Russian TV]* 15
Parliament Commission Meets *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Parliament Commission Challenged *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
OMON Trooper Dies of Injuries *[Moscow TV]* 18
Blame Apportioned *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 4 May]* 18
More on Opposition News Conference *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 4 May]* 19
Parliament's 'Pro-Coup' Attitude Criticized *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
City Government on 'Provocation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Organizations Urge Punishment *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Official Urges 'Tough' Action *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Unrest Called 'Cunning Provocation' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 May]* 21
Russian Communists Protest 'Bloodletting' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 4 May]* 22
Demonstrators Issue 'Appeal' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 23
Coup Plotters May Return to Jail *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Marchers Had Factory-Made Weapons *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 23
Nearly All Detainees Free *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 May]* 24
National Salvation Front Leader Cited *[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES 4 May]* 24
Moscow Democratic Russia Head Cited *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 25

Knives, Explosives Ready for 9 May *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 26

Political Issues

Yeltsin Awaits Referendum Results, Prepares Decrees *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Roundup of Final Referendum Results *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Deputy Premier Shumeyko Holds News Conference 5 May 28
Opposition 'Planned' May Day Action *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Thinks Appointments Will Enforce Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Inflation Remains Major Concern *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Yeltsin Issues Decree on Establishing Monitoring Council *[Moscow Radio]* 28
Functions of New Departments Outlined *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Article Sees 'Swift Onset' of Khasbulatov's 'Isolation' *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 29
Newly Appointed Vice Premier Soskovets Profiled *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 30
Agenda Outlined for 6 May Government Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Edict Banning Parties From State, Public Bodies *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 30
Motives for Rutskoy Ouster from Anti-Crime Job Eyed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 31
Democratic Party Applauds Travkin Stand on Elections *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 32
Deputies Urged To Leave 'Rotten Body' *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 33
Passport, Visa Chief on Current Problems *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 34

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Appoints Economic Adviser *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 35
Government, Trade Unions Agree on 1993 Interaction *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Government Session 29 Apr Decisions Reported *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Apr]* 36
New Approach to Privatization Urged *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 30 Apr]* 37
Statistics Suggest Reform Starting To Work *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* 38
First Quarter Exports Up, Imports 'Considerably' Down *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 39
Conference Plans To Boost Agricultural Machine Building *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 4 May]* 40
Number of Private Farmers Increases to 23,000 *[Radio Rossii]* 40
'Insignificant' Number of Science Workers Join Brain Drain *[IZVESTIYA 30 Apr]* 40

Military Issues

Defense Minister Grachev Presents Awards to Veterans *[Moscow Radio]* 40
Cited on Victory Holiday *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 May]* 41
Border Guard Deputy Commander on Border Law *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 41

Supreme Soviet

U.S. Senators Meet Committee for Defense, Security *[Russian TV]* 41
'Democratic' Deputies Call for Congress' Dissolution *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Democratic Lawmakers Plan To Leave Congress Without Quorum *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Dissolution of Parliament Committee Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 30 Apr]* 42

Regional Affairs

Chechen Talks Continue; Some Agreement on Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Rallies 'Winding Down' *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 43
New Speaker Opponent of Dudayev *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 May]* 43
Chernomyrdin Visits Orenburg Regional Enterprises *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Kalmyk Constitutional Changes Viewed, President Cited *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 44
Peacekeepers Control North Ossetia Emergency Zone *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Far East Commander Asked To Head Cossacks Movement *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 May]* 45
North Caucasus Military District Marks Anniversary *[Moscow TV]* 45
Regional Leaders Comment on Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Northern Fleet Wants Island Bases Closed To Save Money *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 May]* 46

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Parliament Reportedly Delays Debate on START I Treaty *[AFP]* 47
Defense Minister Returns From Riga Conference *[Kiev International]* 47
Views Non-Alignment, Security Issues *[Kiev International]* 47
Vice Premier Views Tasks of Business Colloquium *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 30 Apr]* 47

National Affairs

Kuchma Warns of 'Major Calamity' Ahead *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 49
Defense Minister Views Situation in Armed Forces *[ZA VILNU UKRAYINU 27 Apr]* 51
Kravchuk Meets With Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman *[Kiev International]* 54

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Kebich Stresses Importance of Joining CIS Security Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Servicemen's Welfare Committee Chairman Views Goals *[SEM DNEY 24 Apr]* 55

Moldova

Snegur Receives Romanian Envoy, Suggests Summit *[Bucharest Radio]* 56
UN Experts View Financial Aid Requirements *[BASAPRESS]* 56
Sangheli Heads Delegation to Israel, Meets With President *[BASAPRESS]* 56

CENTRAL ASIA

Kyrgyzstan

Uzbek Troops Conducted Exercises on Territory *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
German Parliamentary Delegation Visits *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Akayev Comments on Status of Russian Language *[Moscow Radio]* 57
Article Left Unchanged *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Supreme Soviet Approves Republic's Formal Name *[Moscow Radio]* 57

Tajikistan

Opposition Forces Driven Out of Pamir Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Military Aircraft Shot Down in Border Fighting *[Dushanbe Radio]* 58
Defense Ministry Statement *[Dushanbe Radio]* 58

Turkmenistan

President, Iranian Minister Discuss Economic Ties *[Tehran IRNA]* 59
President Denounces Attempts To Isolate Iran *[Tehran Radio]* 59

Uzbekistan

Clan System Seen Posing Problems for Karimov *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Apr]* 59

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Fighting *[Yerevan International]* 61
Welcomes UN Resolution *[Yerevan International]* 61
President Meets Uruguay's Envoy, Views Karabakh Security *[Yerevan Radio]* 61
Commission To Oversee Export Control of Weapons Materials *[SNARK]* 62

Azerbaijan

Security Minister: Armenian Troops Leaving Kelbadzhar *[Russian TV]* 62
Armenian Acts Called Attempt To 'Torpedo' UN Resolutions *[ASSA-IRADA]* 62
Elchibey, Georgian Vice Premier Hold Cooperation Talks *[Baku TV]* 62
Elchibey To Visit Great Britain in Late May *[TURAN]* 62
Guseynov, Turkish Parliamentarians Discuss Cooperation *[Baku Radio]* 63
Ministers Accuse Opposition of Harming Political Situation *[ASSA-IRADA]* 63

Georgia

West Not To 'Become Involved' in CIS Disputes *[Moscow Radio]* 63
Kitovani Says Russian Reactionaries Support Abkhazia *[Russian TV]* 63
Shevardnadze Meets With CSCE Delegation *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 63
Shevardnadze Addresses Parliament on Cabinet Nominations *[Tbilisi Radio]* 64
Sigua Holds Talks With PRC Ambassador *[Tbilisi Radio]* 64
Chikvaidze, French Envoy Discuss Joint Ties *[Tbilisi Radio]* 64
Top Military Adviser Discusses Abkhazian War *[NOVAYA GAZETA Apr]* 65

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Einseln Accepts Defense Chief Post Despite U.S. Opposition *[BNS]* 67
Government Abolishes More Visa Requirements *[Tallinn Radio]* 67
Government Initials Civil Aviation Pact With Ukraine *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 67

Latvia

Supreme Council: No Confidence in Agriculture Minister *[Riga Radio]* 67
Minister's Supporters Picket Parliament *[Riga Radio]* 68
Godmanis Delegation Departs for France *[Riga Radio]* 68
Defense Chief Protests Russian Army Staff Exercise *[Riga Radio]* 68
NATO General Arrives in Riga on 3-Day Visit *[LETA]* 68
Meets Defense Minister, Forces Commander *[Riga Radio]* 68

Lithuania

Further on Controversy Over U.S. Envoy Recall 68
Brazauskas Criticizes Envoy *[Vilnius International]* 68
Center Movement Opposes Recall *[Vilnius International]* 69
Landsbergis Calls Decision 'Disadvantageous' *[BNS]* 69
Ambassador Discusses Reassignment *[BNS]* 69
Prime Minister Comments on Social Policy Problems *[Vilnius International]* 70
Armed Forces Fail To Recruit Enough Soldiers *[ITAR-TASS]* 71

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-085-A *5 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

Foreign Ministry Hopes Serbs Will 'Come to Their Senses' *[RIA]* 1
Churkin: Christopher Talks To Be Dialogue *[INTERFAX]* 1
Bosnian Conflict Not Discussed by Yeltsin, Christopher *[INTERFAX]* 1
Kozyrev Discusses Yugoslav Situation With UK's Hurd *[INTERFAX]* 2
Official Criticizes U.S. Policy on Russia *[INTERFAX]* 2
Shokhin on U.S. Grain, Debt Talks With London Club *[INTERFAX]* 2

Russia National Affairs

Parliamentary Leader Comments on May Day Riots *[INTERFAX]* 3
Stankevich on Riots *[INTERFAX]* 3
Reform Coalition To Analyze Clashes *[INTERFAX]* 3
Kozyrev on Consequences *[INTERFAX]* 4
Commission To Present Report *[INTERFAX]* 4
Parliamentary Immunity Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 4
Grachev Says Army Should Not Be Dragged Into Politics *[INTERFAX]* 4

Ukraine National Affairs

Kravchuk Meets With Crimean Parliament Leader *[INTERFAX]* 5
Constitutional Court Chairman To Resign *[INTERFAX]* 5

Belarus

Shushkevich To Seek Referendum on Neutrality Issue *[INTERFAX]* 5

Moldova

Snegur Interview on Economic Policy Reported *[INTERFAX]* 6

Kyrgystan

Akayev Relieved of Head of Government Duties *[INTERFAX]* 6
Akayev Attributes Economic Crisis to Price Liberalization *[RIA]* 7
Parliament Adopts New Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 8

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Signs Decree on Property of Military Units *[INTERFAX]* 8

Uzbekistan

Karimov Discusses Ways To Strengthen Independence *[INTERFAX]* 8

Azerbaijan

President Elchibey Favors Demilitarized Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 8
Press Secretary Praises UN Resolution on Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 9

Baku Wants Resolution To Name Armenia as Aggressor *[INTERFAX]* 9
President Appoints New State Secretary *[INTERFAX]* 9

Georgia

Shevardnadze Tells Russia To Leave CIS 'Alone' *[INTERFAX]* 10
Shevardnadze Meets Russian Army Group Commander *[RIA]* 10
Russian General Tells Shevardnadze To Vacate Ammo Depot *[INTERFAX]* 10
Security Official Calls For Russian Troop Withdrawal *[INTERFAX]* 11

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-086 *6 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Senators Visit Moscow To Discuss START II *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Meet With Shaposhnikov *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Central European Defense Chiefs' Meeting Concludes *[Vilnius Radio]* 1
Japan, CIS To Cooperate in Nuclear Weapons Elimination *[Moscow International]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Kebich Speech Details Agreements at CIS Heads Session *[Minsk Radio]* 2
New Plan for Ukraine's Nonnuclear Status Detailed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 2
Commentary Calls For Switch to Russia's 'Own Currency' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 3
'No Significant Changes' in Soviet SRF *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 May 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Officials Discuss Plans for Bosnian Peace 7
Kozyrev, UK's Hurd Hold Phone Call *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Welcomes Bosnia Signing Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Churkin Flies to Belgrade for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yeltsin Releases Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Defense, Foreign Ministries Discuss Peacekeeping Operations 7
Joint Sitting Held 6 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Grachev Calls For Legislation *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev on Bosnian Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Warren Christopher Ends Moscow 'Working Visit' *[Moscow Radio]* 8
IZVESTIYA on Yeltsin-Christopher Talks *[6 May]* 8
Military Leader Reviews Talks With U.S. Counterparts *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Shokhin Holds News Conference on London, U.S. Trip *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Abandonment of Submarine Deterrent Urged *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 May]* 10
Spokesman Says Yeltsin Postponing Visit to Japan *[Tokyo KYODO]* 11
Trip To Be 25-27 May *[Moscow Radio]* 12
Yeltsin To Attend G-7 Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Visit 'Practically Impossible' *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Canada's Mulroney Supports Yeltsin Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Arrives on Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Welcomed by Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Kozyrev Attends Welcoming Ceremony *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Joint Ocean Research Enterprise With Canada Agreed *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Meets With Kunadze *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Navy Slams Ukraine's 'Privatization' of Russian Ships *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 14
Latvian Visa Regime Disrupting 'Normal Communications' *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 14
Portugal's Barroso in Moscow; Soviet Debt Issue Resolved *[Lisbon TV]* 15
CIS States Urged To Adopt Nonproliferation Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
EC Permanent Mission Opens in Tyumen Oblast *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 May]* 16
Danish Minister Says Russian-EC Talks Continue Successfully *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Negotiations Between Russia, European Community Open *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Results of Trade Delegation's Visit to South America *[Moscow Radio]* 16
Kolokolov Sums Up Results of South Africa Trip *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Slow Democratization Hinders Consolidation of RSA Ties *[Moscow International]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Victory, May Day Activities

Preparations for 9 May Victory Day Viewed 18
Red Square Rallies Prohibited *[Moscow TV]* 18
Communist Party Denied Rally *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
'Attempts on Yeltsin's Life' Planned *[Moscow TV]* 18
Democrats Warn of Attack on Yeltsin *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 May]* 18
Groups Call For Renaming Holiday *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Possible Provocations Foreseen *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 6 May]* 19
Further Reportage on May Day Activities 19
Working Russia Picketing White House *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Anpilov Says 3 Killed *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Organizers, Participants Responsible *[Radio Rossii]* 20
Militia Did Not Intend Confrontation *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Yeltsin Sends Condolences *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Procurator General's Office Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
No Comment From Investigating Team *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 21
Comment on Khasbulatov 4 May Speech *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 21

Political Issues

Further Reportage on Referendum Results 22
Central Electoral Commission Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Factions Evaluate Results *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Post-Referendum Future Pondered *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 22
Voting Majority Rejects Communist Opposition *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Council of Ministers Presidium Meets 6 May 25
Discusses Bills on Rent, Companies *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Draft Sent to Supreme Soviet *[Moscow TV]* 25
MVD Approves Militia's Actions *[Moscow TV]* 26
Official Warns Against Constitutional Commission Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Aide Kostikov Cited on New Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 26
People's Labor Union Urges Adoption of New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Further on Shumeyko's 5 May News Conference *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 28
Blames Deputies for Violence *[Russian TV]* 28
Shokhin on Possible Return of Gaydar to Cabinet *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Democrats Ask President To Form New Government
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 5 May] 29
Yeltsin Edict on Government Working Bodies *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 May]* 29
Official Seeks Detention of Lukyanov, Kryuchkov *[Moscow Radio]* 30
ANCOM-TASS International Press Agency Set Up *[ITAR-TASS]* 30

Military & Economic Issues

Internationalist Servicemen Conference Held 5 May 30
Grachev, Gromov Address Conference *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 30
Conference Appeals to Armed Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Yeltsin Hails 'Reliable Protection' of Kremlin Regiment *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Western Advice Not Right for National Economy *[FEDERATSIYA 4 May]* 32
Finance Ministry's Plan To Sell Gold Criticized *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 34
Status of Spring Sowing Campaign Reviewed *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 35

Supreme Soviet

Investigating Commission Meets To Discuss May Day *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 35
Draft Statement Prepared *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Presidium Meets 5 May To Discuss May Day Events 36
Khasbulatov: Riots Result of Referendum *[Moscow TV]* 36
Moscow Mayor Luzhkov Address *[Russian TV]* 36

Khasbulatov Cited; More on Luzhkov *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
News Agencies Banned From Covering Meetings *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Further on Access Denial *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
News Agencies Threaten Boycott *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Parliamentary Officials Discuss Constitution, Power Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Reform Coalition Advocates Professional Parliament *[Moscow TV]* 40

Regional Affairs

Bomb Discovered at Tatarstan Deputy Premier's House *[Moscow TV]* 40
Security Ministry Protests Kalmyk President's Edict *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 40
Chechen Opposition Claims Desertions From Dudayev Camp *[Russian TV]* 41
'Bogus' Investment Firm Takes St. Petersburg Vouchers *[IZVESTIYA 4 May]* 41
Hundreds of Hectares of Farmland Affected in Tomsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Situation Still Tense in North Ossetia-Ingushetia Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Messages Mark Military District Anniversary *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 May]* 42
Program Examines Udmurtia Arms Industry *[Russian TV]* 43
Nizhniy Novgorod Voucher Auctions Continue *[Russian TV]* 45

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Council Votes To Abide by 1980 Nuclear Materials Convention *[Kiev International]* 46
Plyushch Confers With British Envoy on Nuclear Issues *[Kiev International]* 46
Rukh Chairman Opposes Missile Transfer to Russia *[Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG 3 May]* 46
Kravchuk Ready To Meet Yeltsin on Black Sea Fleet *[Moscow International]* 47
Security Service Denies Interfering in Russian Affairs *[UKRINFORM]* 47
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Working Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Treatment of Ethnic Ukrainians in Yugoslavia Protested *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Official Says FRY Sanctions Paralyzing Trade *[Kiev International]* 48
Interior Ministry Delegation Visits Israel *[Kiev International]* 48

National Affairs

Seventh Session of Supreme Council Continues *[Kiev International]* 48
Debate Focuses on Chernobyl Issue *[UKRINFORM]* 49

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Supreme Soviet To Review Completed Constitution Draft *[Minsk Radio]* 50
Government Rejects Russian Example of Privatization *[Minsk Radio]* 50
Polish Military Team Visits, Signs Cooperation Pact *[ROSSIYA 5 May]* 50

Moldova

Snegur Reports Progress in Solving Ethnic Conflicts *[Moscow International]* 50
Supreme Court To Annul Tiraspol Ruling as 'Unconstitutional' *[Bucharest Radio]* 51
Romania Training 'Terrorists' To Provoke Conflict *[BASAPRESS]* 51

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

President Meets Servicemen, Outlines Military Doctrine *[Almaty Radio]* 52
Nazarbayev Opposes Confederative State in Central Asia *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Trade Officials Hold Talks With Iranian Commerce Minister *[Tehran IRNA]* 52
Tereshchenko Ready To Broaden Cooperation *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Protesters Demand End to PRC Nuclear Tests *[Moscow TV]* 52

DPRK Embassy Holds Briefing on U.S. Ties *[Almaty Radio]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President's Spokesman Welcomes UN Resolution on Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Karabakh Official's UN Letter Expresses 'Concern' *[SNARK]* 54
Azeris Said Massing Troops; Turks Transporting Arms *[Yerevan Radio]* 54

Azerbaijan

Leadership Considers Position on Three-Way Peace Document *[ASSA-IRADA]* 54
State Secretary Says Document Approved *[TURAN]* 55
U.S. Involvement Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 55
Ministry Links Armenian Pullout to Dispute Over War Spoils *[AZERTAC]* 56
Armenians Said To Transfer Military Units *[AZERTAC]* 56

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Russian Commander Discuss Artillery Arsenal *[SNARK]* 56
Defense Minister To Reject Parliament Call To Resign *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 56
Swiss Ambassador Named UN Envoy to Georgia *[Bern International]* 57
Chinese Enterprises Sign Cooperation Agreement *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 57
Parliament 4 May Session Detailed *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57

BALTIC STATES

Latvia

Gorbunovs Meets With European Parliament Delegation *[Riga Radio]* 58
Andrejevs Denounces 'Ethnic Cleansing' Charges *[BNS]* 58

Lithuania

Landsbergis Criticizes Polish Envoy's Remark on Vilnius *[BNS]* 58
Landsbergis Elected Leader of Homeland Union Party *[Moscow TV]* 59

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-087 *7 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 7 May 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Visits by Warren Christopher, U.S. Senators Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 6 May]* 2
Status, Future of U.S.-Russian Military Cooperation Eyed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 2
U.S., Russian War Veterans Present Yeltsin With Sculpture *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Yeltsin Invitation to Tokyo G-7 Summit Still Valid *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Envoy Notified of Yeltsin Postponement *[Tokyo KYODO]* 4
Yeltsin Likely To Visit in Autumn *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Yeltsin Japan Trip Deferment Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 4
Japanese Response Viewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 7 May]* 5
Prospects for Visit Analyzed *[MOSKOVSKIY NOVOSTI 9 May]* 6
Shokhin Urges Effective Use of Foreign Aid *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 7
Yeltsin, Canada's Mulroney Hold Ceremonial Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Kozyrev, France's Juppe Discuss Bosnian Serb Decision *[Moscow Radio]* 8
Talks With Spain's Solana *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Talks With Abkhazia End in Maykop *[Moscow Radio]* 8
Talks Detailed *[Radio Rossii]* 8
Further on Consultations *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Kozyrev *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Holds Talks With Georgiy Khizha *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Commentary Says Ukraine's Nuclear Weapons Threaten Planet *[Moscow TV]* 9
Moscow Urges North-South Dialogue To Solve Nuclear Issue *[Moscow International]* 10
Russian-Built Sub Plays 'Main Role' in Iranian Exercise *[Moscow TV]* 10
Yeltsin Thanks Bulgarian President for Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Vladimir Petrovskiy on UN Role, Reform *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 9 May]* 11

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin 6 May Address on Referendum Results *[Russian TV]* 13
Post-Referendum Options Considered *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 15
Civic Union Analyzes 'Contradictory' Results *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 17
Referendum Shows Yeltsin's 'Unstable' Social Base *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 18
Rutskoy To Nominate Self in Presidential Elections *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Text of Yeltsin Edict on Anti-Crime Commission *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 19
Further on 6 May Meeting of Council of Ministers *[Moscow Radio]* 19
President's Draft Constitution Under Discussion *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
White House Said Headquarters of 'Violence,' 'Tyranny' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 May]* 21
Skokov Said Relieved of Security Council Duties *[Moscow Radio]* 21
Yeltsin Signs Decree on Staff's Social Protection *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Coup Trial Defendents Remain Free *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Current Political Situation Analyzed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 22
Yeltsin's Supporters Discuss Next Moves *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 5 May]* 23
Pamyat's Vasiliyev Expresses Support for Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Trade Unions Advocate 'Dismantling Communist Symbols' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 6 May]* .. 24

Victory Day Activities

Moscow Braces for Marches, Possible Violence *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 6 May]* 24
Yeltsin To Lay Wreaths *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Rallies Banned in Designated Area *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Officers Union Warns Against Ban *[Russian TV]* 25
Union Insists on Marching *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Mayor Told Not To Use OMON *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Official Warns Communists Seek 'Blood' *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Procuracy General Warns Against 'Provocations' *[Moscow TV]* 26
Constitutional Court Urges Calm *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Protests Near Official Buildings Banned *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 26
May Day Demonstration Leaders To Be Prosecuted *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 26
Parties Urge Action Against Riot Organizers *[ITAR-TASS]* 27

Military & Media Issues

Grachev Greets Army Personnel on First Anniversary *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 28
Comments on Formation of Armed Forces *[Moscow TV]* 28
Reduction Planned for 1995 *[Moscow Radio]* 28
Khasbulatov, Rutskoy Receive WWII War Veterans *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Press Ministry Calls Ban on Media 'Crude Violation' *[Moscow Radio]* 29
Yeltsin Prepares Decree on Press, Media *[Moscow Radio]* 29
Editor Refutes Press Minister's Claims *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 29

Economic Issues

Fuller Version of Chernomyrdin 29 Apr Speech *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 31

Supreme Soviet

Further on 6 May Parliament Proceedings 37
Moscow Mayor Questioned *[Russian TV]* 37
Interior Minister Yerin Gives Speech *[Russian TV]* 39
Yerin Answers Questions *[Russian TV]* 42
Deputy Benov on Inquiry's Findings *[Russian TV]* 45
Benov Answers Questions *[Russian TV]* 47
Stepashin Calls For Rally 'Moratorium' *[Russian TV]* 47
Khasbulatov on Constitution Question *[Russian TV]* 48
Deputy Chelnokov Warns of Violence *[Russian TV]* 49
Decision on Victory Day Celebrations *[Moscow Radio]* 49
Statement on May Day Clashes *[Russian TV]* 50
Constitutional Commission Convenes 7 May *[Moscow Radio]* 50
Khasbulatov Opens Discussion *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Rejects Draft Constitution *[AFP]* 51
Draft Limits Human Rights *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Official Positively Assesses Draft *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Khasbulatov on Yeltsin's Absence *[Moscow Radio]* 53
Further on Commission Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 53
New Constitution May Be Adopted in Fall *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Parliament Session 'Almost Empty'; To Meet 13 May *[Russian TV]* 54

Regional Affairs

Chenromyrdin Continues Visit to Orenburg Oblast 54
Tours Orsk *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 May]* 54
Comments on Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Chechen Parliament Appeals to Dudayev for Recognition *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Chechen President Orders Enforcement of Law, Order *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Mordovian Power Struggle Disrupts Economy *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Tatar President Insists on 'Treaty Basis' of Ties *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 6 May]* 55

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Russia's Adamishin Comments on Talks With Kravchuk *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Discusses Relations With Plyushch *[UKRINFORM]* 56
Morozov Bans Russian Deputies From Military Bases *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Kravchuk Comments on Relations With Russia, Slovakia *[Bratislava PRAVDA 5 May]* 57
Republican Party Wants State Control of Nuclear Arms *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 59

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich Begins Official Visit to Romania *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Meets With Iliescu *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Supreme Soviet To Consider Draft Laws *[Minsk Radio]* 60

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Badakhshan Supreme Soviet Issues Appeal for Peace *[Dushanbe Radio]* 61

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Rejects Russian, U.S., Turkish Peace Plan *[Moscow Radio]* 62
Officials Explain Objections to Plan *[Yerevan Radio]* 62
Karabakh Envoy Says U.S. Initiative 'Somewhat One-Sided' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 63
Karabakh Claims Turkey Sending Arms to Azerbaijan *[SNARK]* 63

Azerbaijan

Government Accepts U.S., Russian, Turkish Peace Proposal *[Baku Radio]* 64
Defense Ministry Says Armenian Forces 'Violate' UN Resolution *[AZERTAC]* 64
Analyst Sees Little Hope of Good Relations With Russia *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 9 May]* ... 64

Georgia

Parliament Approves Karkarashvili as Defense Minister *[Tbilisi Radio]* 65
Abkhazia Defense Council Announces Military Call-Up *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 65
Blames Escalation on Abkhazia, Russia *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 66
Abkhaz Leader Calls For Withdrawal of Georgian Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 66

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

President, Foreign Minister on Official Visit to Poland *[BNS]* 67
Velliste Comments on Russian Withdrawal, Minority *[Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET 4 May]* 67
Parliament Adopts Land Taxation Law *[Tallinn Radio]* 69

Lithuania

Slezevicius Comments on Talks With IMF, Wage Hikes *[Vilnius Radio]* 69
Memorandum on Trade, Cooperation Signed With Finland *[BNS]* 69

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-088 *10 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Shaposhnikov Comments on Victory Day *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Celebrations Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Antimonopoly Conference Opens in Moscow *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 7 May]* 1
Former Republics To Crack Down *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 8 May]* 2
Soviet Space Footage Shows Rocket Explosion *[Tokyo KYODO]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 May 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Canada's Mulroney Arrives for Summit 7 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Signs Agreements With Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Meets With Chernomyrdin *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Comments on Cooperation Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Further Yeltsin Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Yeltsin Comments on Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Bosnian Security Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Yeltsin Remarks at News Conference *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Mulroney Ends Visit, Leaves Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev Favors Safe Havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina *[Ljubljana Radio]* 7
Hopeful for Bosnian Serb Referendum *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 7 May]* 7
Churkin Interviewed on Hopes To Save Vance-Owen Plan *[Moscow TV]* 7
Grachev Holds Talks on Bosnia With U.S. Official *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
'More Active Stance' Wanted on Yugoslavia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 8
Diplomat Says Bosnia Poll 'Last Chance' *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 10
Japan 'Understands' Yeltsin's Decision To Postpone Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Deputy Foreign Minister Comments *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 11
Kozyrev Receives Iranian Special Representative *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Commentary Notes Good Prospects for Iranian Ties *[Moscow International]* 12
Kuwaiti Official Briefed on Gulf Security Measures *[Kuwait TV]* 12
Official Pleased With Progress of Middle East Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Deputy Minister Continues Southern Africa Tour 13
Meets Zimbabwean President *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Ends Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Western Group Commanders Hold Talks at NATO *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 13
NATO Wants Regular Contacts With Military *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
CFE Treaty Creates Problems for Flanks *[SEGODNYA 7 May]* 14
More on Joint Defense, Foreign Ministry Session *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 15
Grachev, Kozyrev Discuss Options *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 May]* 15
French Paper: Rapid Reaction Force To Be Set Up *[Paris LE MONDE 7 May]* 16

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Victory Day Activities

Victory Day Celebration Activities Reported 17
Khasbulatov Address *[Moscow TV]* 17
Grachev Broadcasts Message *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Yeltsin Congratulates Black Sea Fleet *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Few Militia, No OMON Men at Rally *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Slogans Mostly 'Political' *[Radio Rossii]* 19

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Visit Tomb *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Opposition March Reported Calm *[Russian TV]* 19
Khasbulatov Participates in Celebrations *[Moscow Radio]* 20
Zorkin Calls For 'Civil Compromise' *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Yeltsin, Others Visit Memorial *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, Zorkin Attend 'Party' *[Russian TV]* 20
Opposition Demonstrators 'Breached' Accords *[Moscow Radio]* 20
Further Reportage on May Day Disturbances 21
Security Ministry Denies Claims *[Moscow Radio]* 21
Yeltsin Gives Awards *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Rioters Said 'Paid for Clashing ' *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 8 May]* 21

Political Issues

Filatov Says Rutskoy, Khasbulatov Should Resign *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Filatov Blames Supreme Soviet for Sowing 'Fear' *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Filatov Calls For Reform Supporters on Yeltsin's Staff *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Yeltsin Thanks Democratic Organizations on Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Skokov Reportedly To Be Released From Post *[Russian TV]* 22
Implications of 'Resignation' Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 22
Rutskoy Criticizes Reforms, Yeltsin *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 23
Yeltsin Thanks Cultural Figures for Referendum Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin Leadership Style Likened to Stalin *[PRAVDA 8 May]* 26
Yeltsin on Preparation of New Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 27
Free Russia Party Supports Draft Constitution *[Moscow Radio]* 27
Reform Activist Finds Constitution Inadequate *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 27
Government Session on Companies, Land Payments Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 29
More on Council of Ministers Session *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 29
Women Urge Yeltsin To Ban Fascist, Communist Bodies *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 7 May]* 30
Article Sees Yeltsin Success Likely in Political Events *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 30

Media & Economic Issues

Press, Information Ministry Reportedly May Be Disbanded *[Russian TV]* 31
Journalists Protest Denial of Access to Parliament *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 7 May]* 31
Chernomyrdin Outlines Economic Measures *[Radio Rossii]* 31
President Criticized for Scaling Down Social Programs *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 9 May]* 32
Doubts Raised About Anti-Inflation Policy *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 9 May]* 32
Prospects of Gaydar's Comeback Viewed *[SEGODNYA 7 May]* 33
'State Regulation' of Economy Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 May]* 34

Military Issues

Grachev Comments on First Year of Armed Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Armed Forces Viewed After One Year in Existence *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 8 May]* 36
Commentator Views Russian Army Anniversary *[Moscow TV]* 37
Grachev: Army Will Accept Veterans' Reform Proposals *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 May]* 38
Elements of New Military Doctrine Highlighted *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 38
Minister: Army Devotes More Attention to Social Issues *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 39

Supreme Soviet

Further on 7 May Constitutional Commission Meeting *[Russian TV]* 40
Atmosphere 'Calm, Businesslike' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 43
Move To Cooperate With Yeltsin *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 44
Ban Lifted on News Agency Reporters at Presidium Sessions *[Radio Rossii]* 44
Further on Session Assessing May Day Events *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 44
Press Service Rejects Use of Force Against Chechnya *[Moscow Radio]* 45

Regional Affairs

Dudayev Says Situation in Chechnya 'Stabilized' *[Radio Rossii]* 45
Chelyabinsk Governor-Elect on Referendum, Privatization *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 May]* 45
Bashkir Leader Displeased With Skokov's Dismissal *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 46
Kalmykia Leader on Region's Political Transformation *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Chernomyrdin Visits Gas Works in Orenburg Oblast *[Moscow TV]* 47
Ingushetia Refugees Attacked by Unidentified Ossetians *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
New Status for North Caucasus Military District *[Moscow Radio]* 47
North Ossetia WWII Veterans Receive Victory Day Awards *[Moscow Radio]* 47

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Special U.S. Envoy Arrives for Talks on Nuclear Disarmament *[Moscow International]* 48
Kravchuk, Crimean Official Discuss Black Sea Fleet *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 48
Kuchma, Russia's Adamishin Discuss Economic Relations *[Kiev International]* 48
France To Aid With Nuclear Safety, Investment *[UKRINFORM]* 48
Delegation Visits Poland, Views Plans To Stimulate Economic Ties *[UKRINFORM]* 49

National Affairs

Plyushch Sees No Short-Term Alternative to Nuclear Energy *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 6 May]* 49
Government Establishes Committee on State Secrets *[Kiev International]* 49
New Party Leader Formulates Principles, Goals *[URYADOVYY KURYER 6 May]* 50

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

'Present Borders' Recognized by Ukraine *[BASAPRESS]* 51
Defense Official Views NATO Cooperation Meeting *[BASAPRESS]* 51
German Military Delegation Visits *[BASAPRESS]* 51
Dniester Signs Economic Agreement With Karelia *[Radio Rossii]* 51
Snegur To Withdraw From Ruble Zone, Issue Leu *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 51

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Defense Minister Addresses Armed Forces on Victory Day *[Almaty Radio]* 52
Nazarbayev Receives New Generals *[Almaty Radio]* 52
Nazarbayev Receives Deutsche Bank Vice President *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Nazarbayev Receives Indian Envoy *[ITAR-TASS]* 53

Kyrgyzstan

Provisions of New Constitution Outlined *[IZVESTIYA 6 May]* 53
Parliament Ends Session, Creates Constitutional Court *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
President Addresses Nation on Victory Day *[Bishkek Radio]* 54
New Currency To Replace Ruble Starting 10 May *[Moscow Radio]* 54

Tajikistan

Ministry Official Says Afghan Forces Planning Invasion *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Foreign Minister Comments on Border Situation, CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 55

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Iranian Embassy Issues Statement Denying Arms Conduit *[Yerevan Radio]* 56
Karabakh Spokesman Seeks 'Sharp' Security Guarantees *[SNARK]* 56

Azerbaijan

Armenian President 'Agreed to' Peace Initiative *[TURAN]* 56
Armenian Reaction Criticized *[Baku Radio]* 56
Official Views Yerevan Policy, U.S. Karabakh Initiative *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 57
Defense Ministry Reports Armenian 'Offensive' *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Says 'Onslaught' Repulsed *[AZERTAC]* 57

Georgia

Shevardnadze Rules Out Coup Attempts *[Tbilisi Radio]* 58
New Defense Minister Named To Help Control Army *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 58
Shevardnadze on French Relations, Abkhazian Situation *[Tbilisi Radio]* 58
Russian Army Official Presents Withdrawal Schedule *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* ... 58
Defense Council Says Gudauta Trying To 'Wreck' Moscow Summit *[Tbilisi Radio]* 58
Georgian, Abkhazian Military Officials Hold Meeting *[Russian TV]* 59

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-089 *11 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

OECD Expresses Support for Economic Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
USSR Republics To Join Asian Development Bank *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 1
USSR Republics Attend Istanbul Oil Conference *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 1
More on Meeting of East, Central Europe Defense Chiefs *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Kravchuk, Shushkevich Not Firm Participants in Summit *[Radio Rossii]* 3
CIS Antitrust Summit Meets; Lithuania Absent *[BNS]* 3
Japanese TV Reports on 1960 Baykonur Missile Disaster *[ITAR-TASS]* 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Issues Over Phone *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Senate Committee Confirms Pickering Nomination *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 4
'Bargain Sale' of Strategic Reserves Criticized *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 4
Shokhin on Implementing Vancouver Grain Deal *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 May]* 5
Defense Minister Grachev Arrives in Turkey *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Meets Prime Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Talks With Counterpart *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Vorontsov on Tougher Measures if Vance-Owen Plan Rejected *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 May]* 6
Sources Stress Importance of Serb-Muslim Cease-Fire *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 6
Paper Hits 'Groveling' Diplomacy on Bosnian Serbs *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 8 May]* 7
Foreign Ministry Supports UN Resolution on NKAO *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Parties' Response to NKAO Accord *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 8
Abkhazians Agree 'in Principle' to Cease-Fire *[Moscow TV]* 8
Humanitarian Mission to Abkhazia Announced in Sochi *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 8
'Ukrainianization' Pressures Black Sea Seamen *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 May]* 8
Intelligence Service Denies Japanese Claims *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Talks Held With Japan Delegation on Nuclear Waste *[Tokyo KYODO]* 10
Accord on Building Nuclear Plant for China *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 May]* 10
Consulate To Open in Hong Kong *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 11
Paper Profiles Helicopter Crew Serving in Cambodia *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 May]* 12
Iran Said Ready to Give Up Mass Destruction Weapons *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 May]* 13
Officials Attend Monaco Economic Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Discuss Economic Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Talks Held With EC Delegates in St. Petersburg *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Minister Sums Up Results of World Environmental Conference *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 14

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Releases Deputy Premier Khizha From Post *[Radio Rossii]* 15
Releases Skokov From Post *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Shakhray Refutes Appointment *[Russian TV]* 15
Stepashin May Replace Skokov *[Russian TV]* 15
Yeltsin Chairs Constitution 'Working Group' Session *[Moscow Radio]* 15
Yeltsin Boycott on Constitutional Commission Hit *[PRAVDA 8 May]* 16
Shakhray Says Deputies Cannot Adopt Constitution *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 May]* 16

Constitutional Court's Plans for May Outlined *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 May]* 16
Anpilov Kidnapped, Beaten; Proceedings Under Way *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Procurator General Issues Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Yeltsin Greets, Khasbulatov Addresses Kurchatov Institute *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Roundup of Recent Government Decisions *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 May]* 18
Yeltsin Opts for 'Ignoring' Deputies *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 8 May]* 19
Cabinet Reshuffle, Gaydar's Future Eyed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 7 May]* 19
Shakhray Speaks to Roundtable on Regional Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Yeltsin Measures Against Opposition Derided *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 8 May]* 21
Prosecutor on Measures To Curb Violence *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 7 May]* 22
Yeltsin Forms Commission To Investigate May Day Events *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Security Ministry Accused of Inaction on May Day *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 23
CPSU-UCP Council Appeals for Support, Solidarity *[PRAVDA 7 May]* 24
Fedotov Denies Report of Press Ministry's Abolition *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 May]* 24
Housing Main Problem for Refugees in Russia *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 May]* 24
Trial of Coup Leaders To Resume 12 May *[Radio Rossii]* 26

Economic Issues

Vice Premier on Anti-Inflationary Policy *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 26
Consumer Price Inflation Slows in April *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 27
Disability Benefits Extended to Former WWII Veterans *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 28
'Chaos and Confusion' in Coal Industry Viewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 May]* 28

Military Issues

Grachev Speaks on Army Anniversary *[Moscow TV]* 29
Mironov Conveys Grachev's Greetings to WWII Veterans *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 May]* 29
Defense Minister's Victory Day Order Published *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 May]* 30
Navy Aide Explains Black Sea Fleet Financing *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 May]* 30
Pacific Fleet Commander on Problems Faced *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Air Force Commander Complains About Troop Treatment *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Military Attaches Briefed on Armed Forces Development *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Arms Trade's Status, Future Examined *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 May]* 32
Kurchatov Institute Involved in New 'Majestic' Projects *[Moscow TV]* 33
Higher Pay, Allowances for Contract Servicemen Announced *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 33
Need for Religious, Moral Training in Army Discussed *[Russian TV]* 34
Development of Russian Army Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 May]* 35

Supreme Soviet

Chairman Appointed to Investigation Commission *[Moscow Radio]* 38
Supreme Soviet Issues Victory Day Appeal *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 38
Statement on May Day Demonstrations *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 38
Decree on Schedule for Adopting New Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 39
Head of Corruption Commission Appointed *[ITAR-TASS]* 40

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Tours Enterprises in Orenburg Oblast *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 7 May]* 40
Ends Orenburg Visit *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 May]* 40
Begins Northern Caucasus Tour *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Economic Problems Focus of Visit *[Russian TV]* 41
Report on Conflict Expected *[Radio Rossii]* 41
Ingush Premier Seeks Aid *[Russian TV]* 42
'Extraordinary' Security Measures Taken *[Moscow TV]* 42
Urges Peaceful Solution *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Calls For Reliance on Russian Technology *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Chairs N. Caucasian Council Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Shakhray Returns 'Urgently' to Moscow *[IZVESTIYA 12 May]* 44
Ingushetia Supports Reform; Problems Must Be Solved *[Radio Rossii]* 44

'Flexibility' of New Chechen Speaker Noted *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 May]* 44
Dudayev's Absence Cancels 'Conciliation' Meeting *[Radio Rossii]* 44
Dudayev Believes Republic Situation 'Stabilizing' *[Russian TV]* 45
Luzhkov 'Out of Danger' After Heart Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Karelian Official Comments on Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 45
Arkhangelsk Ship-Building Town Closed to Outsiders *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Tuva Constitution Contains Right to Secession *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Vologda Power Struggle Extension of Federal Politics *[IZVESTIYA 7 May]* 47
Tatarstan Supports Yeltsin Draft Constitution *[Moscow Radio]* 48
More Regional Reaction *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Alleged Referendum Fraud in Moscow Catalogued *[PRAVDA 6 May]* 49
Extension of Local Administrations' Powers Planned *[Radio Rossii]* 50

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Receives U.S. Special Envoy *[UKRINFORM]* 51
Durdynets Receives Envoy *[Kiev International]* 51
Plyushch's Visit to Iran To Conclude Talks *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 7 May]* 51
Plyushch on Ties With Iran, Nuclear Disarmament *[Tehran IRNA]* 52
Deputy Minister Discusses Trade With Indian Envoy *[Kiev International]* 52

National Affairs

Cabinet Adopts Decisions on Ending Economic Crisis *[UKRINFORM]* 52
Rukh Calls For Special Powers for Kravchuk *[Radio Rossii]* 53

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Defense Ministry Experts Inspect Military Units *[Minsk Radio]* 54
Kozlov Appointed Deputy Secretary for CIS Affairs *[BELINFORM]* 54
Friendship, Cooperation Treaty Signed With Romania *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Hungarian State Secretary Signs Treaty Draft on Cooperation *[RID]* 54
Kebich, Government Delegation Leave for UAE, India *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Shushkevich Comments on Kyrgyzstan Currency *[Moscow TV]* 55
Shushkevich Meets Town Leaders on Self-Administration *[Moscow TV]* 55

Moldova

Leaders Pledge To Seek Peaceful End to Dniester Conflict *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Rule Out Use of 'Military Methods' *[Bucharest Radio]* 55
Snegur Calls Sociopolitical Situation 'Satisfactory' *[Moscow Radio]* 56
14th Army Chief Views Dniester's Economic Stability *[BASAPRESS]* 56
Snegur Stresses Need To Preserve Eastern Market *[BASAPRESS]* 56
Prime Minister Discusses Economic Privatization *[BASAPRESS]* 56
Calls For CIS Economic Alliance *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Foreign Trade Minister Lists Economic Priorities *[BASAPRESS]* 57
Gagauz President Reiterates Right to 'Self-Determination' *[BASAPRESS]* 57

CENTRAL ASIA

Turkmenistan

Military Cooperation With Russia Highlighted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 May]* 58

Uzbekistan

Karimov Outlines Economic Achievements *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 60

Government To Regulate Money Circulation *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Supreme Soviet Session Ends; Laws Adopted *[Moscow Radio]* 61
Deputies' Appeal to People To Contribute to Nation's 'Prosperity' *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 61
Committee Given Constitutional Control Pending Elections *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 61
President Returns From Visit to Germany *[IZVESTIYA 5 May]* 61

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Spokesman Denies Rejection of Tripartite Peace Proposal *[Yerevan International]* 62
Official Comments on Talks With Russia on Fuel Supplies *[Radio Rossii]* 62

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Yeltsin Meeting, Abkhazia *[Tbilisi Radio]* 62
Shevardnadze Views Conflicts With Separatists, Russia *[Vienna DER STANDARD 10 May]* 65
Further on Confirmation of New Defense Minister *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 66
Defense Minister Meets With U.S. Envoy *[Tbilisi Radio]* 66
Gamsakhurdia Supporters Urge Cease-Fire in Abkhazia *[Moscow TV]* 66
Chikvaidze, Israeli Envoy Discuss Relations *[Tbilisi Radio]* 67
Parliament Elects Representatives of Black Sea Assembly
[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 5 May] 67
Ratifies Friendship Treaty With Azerbaijan *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 28 Apr]* 67
Sigua Reports on Crime, Drug Problem *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 29 Apr]* 67
Turkey Grants $50-Million Credit *[Tbilisi Radio]* 69

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Prime Minister, U.S. Enovy Discuss U.S. Baltic Policy *[Tallinn Radio]* 70
Luik Hopes Russian Referendum Results Speed Troop Withdrawal *[BNS]* 70
New Defense Forces Chief Targets Violence, Abuse in Military *[BNS]* 70
No New Consulates in CIS Countries To Be Opened *[Tallinn Radio]* 70

Lithuania

Prime Minister Interviewed on Policy, Reform *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 21 Apr]* 70
Delegate Comments on Talks With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 73

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-089-A *11 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

American, 'Soviet' Veterans Make Presentation to Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 1
Bosnian Serbs Will Make 'Responsible' Decision *[RIA]* 1
Moscow, Washington Call For Acceptance of Vance-Owen Plan *[INTERFAX]* 1
Diplomat on Reported Russian-Libyan Lockerbie Move *[RIA]* 1
Moscow Increases Efforts To Resolve Karabakh Crisis *[INTERFAX]* 2
Moscow Calls For Compliance on UNSC Resolution *[INTERFAX]* 2
Moscow Urges Solutions for Arab-Israeli Talks *[INTERFAX]* 3
Official Assures Moscow Seeks Equal Relations With Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 3

Russia National Affairs

Yeltsin Congratulates Army, Navy on Victory Day *[INTERFAX]* 3
Officer's Union Says 9 May 'Victory of Discipline' *[INTERFAX]* 4
Leaders Barred From Review Stand 9 May *[INTERFAX]* 4
Coup Plotters See Nothing Wrong With May Day Participation *[RIA]* 4
Rutskoy Intends To 'Run for Presidency' *[INTERFAX]* 5
Rutskoy Calls Accusations of Treachery 'Groundless' *[INTERFAX]* 5
Gaydar: No Propositions To Reenter Government *[INTERFAX]* 5
Rumyantsev Says Yeltsin Not Needed To Adopt Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 5
Yeltsin Voids Constitutional Commission Session *[INTERFAX]* 6
Government Officials Grant Interview *[INTERFAX]* 6
Central Bank's Gerashchenko Not Willing To Step Down *[INTERFAX]* 8
Deputy Says 40 Colleagues Bid To Dissolve Congress *[INTERFAX]* 8
President Says Tatarstan Will Abide by New Constitution *[RIA]* 8

Ukraine International Affairs

Kiev, Washington To Sign Bilateral Relations Charter *[INTERFAX]* 8
Kravchuk 'Satisfied' With Black Sea Fleet Commander's Work *[INTERFAX]* 9

Moldova

Snegur: Resolving Dniester Issue 'Main Task' of Leadership *[INTERFAX]* 9
Chisinau Hails Outcome of Summit With Dniester Leaders *[INTERFAX]* 10

Kyrgyzstan

New Constitution Adopted; Akayev Addresses Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 10

Tajikistan

National Security Committee Confiscates 324 Missiles *[INTERFAX]* 11
27,000 Refugees To Return From Afghanistan 16 May *[INTERFAX]* 11

Uzbekistan

Karimov Assesses Nation's Situation, Future Development *[INTERFAX]* 11

Azerbaijan

Gasymov: Russian Troops 'Unacceptable' as Peacekeepers *[INTERFAX]* 12
President's Office Denies Charge of Turkish Military Aid *[INTERFAX]* 12
Baku Supports International Sanctions Against Armenia *[INTERFAX]* 12

Lithuania

Missing Cassette With Nuclear Fuel 'May Have Been Stolen' *[BALTFAX]* 13

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-090 *12 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 May 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin, Kohl Discuss Bosnia During Phone Call *[Moscow TV]* 2
Kozyrev May Visit Balkans Before Vance-Owen Vote *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 May]* 2
Yugoslav Chief of Staff Warns Intervention 'Disastrous' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 12 May]* 2
U.S. Delegation Visits Urals, Discusses Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Yeltsin Voices Concern to Shevardnadze Over Kutaisi Attack *[Radio Rossii]* 4
Visas Necessary for Latvians, Estonians Entering Russia *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Baltic Fleet Exercises Begin in Baltic Sea *[Riga Radio]* 4
Nationalists Visit Europe, Claim Western Support *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 May]* 4
Dubna Holds International Physics Seminar *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Il-96 Flight to New York To Improve Canadian Ties *[Russian TV]* 5

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin Decrees New Constitution To Be Complete 10 Jun *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Constitution Working Commission Members Detailed *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Yeltsin Orders Reduction of Rutskoy's Secretariat *[Moscow Radio]* 6
Kostikov Explains Cut *[Moscow TV]* 6
Kostikov Cited on Dismissal of Skokov, Khizha *[Moscow International]* 6
Kozyrev on Skokov's Dismissal *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Commentator Views High-Level Personnel Changes *[Radio Rossii]* 7
Khasbulatov Addresses Meeting on New Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 7
Speaks on Referendum *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Cited on Adoption Procedures *[Radio Rossii]* 8
Khasbulatov, Zorkin Remarks Cited *[Russian TV]* 9
Yeltsin, Stepankov Discuss Law Enforcement Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Shakhray Addresses Regional Policy Roundtable *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 9
Shakhray Involved in 'Incident' in Moscow *[Moscow TV]* 10
'Opposition' Said 'Aggravating' Political Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Gaydar Cited on Possibility of Return *[IZVESTIYA 12 May]* 10
Draft Law Outlines New System of State Awards *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Yeltsin Signs Decree Founding State TV, Radio Company *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Law on Status of Russian Federation Capital *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 12
Government Examines Amendments to Land Lease Law *[IZVESTIYA 8 May]* 14
Defense Ministry Briefing Notes Restructuring Efforts *[Moscow TV]* 14
Six Satellites Launched on Tsiklon Carrier 11 May *[Moscow Radio]* 15

Supreme Soviet

Presidium Meets 11 May; Proceedings Summarized *[Moscow Radio]* 15
Presidium Decisions Viewed *[Russian TV]* 15
Constitutional Commission Meets on Draft Constitution *[Russian TV]* 16

Regional Affairs

Official Visit, Situation in North Caucasus Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 May]* 16
Chernomyrdin Promises Troops, Justice *[Russian TV]* 17
Chernomyrdin Concludes Visit *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Ingushetia Representative Kostoyev Hands in Resignation *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 May]* 17
Ossetia, Ingush Sides Accuse Each Other of Arms Supply *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Court Supports Okrug's Entry Into Federation *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Komi Public Committee To Organize Early Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 18

Cossack Leader Reacts 'Negatively' to Yeltsin Edict *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 18

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Talbott Notes Progress in Relations With Ukraine *[UNIAR]* 19
Ambassador Returns From Balkan Tour *[Kiev International]* 19
Views Yugoslav Conflict Settlement *[Kiev International]* 19
Foreign Ministry Protests Human Rights Violations in Yugoslavia *[ZA VILNU UKRAYINU 6 May]* 19
Defense Minister on Black Sea Dispute, Nuclear Weapons *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Plyushch Talks With Iran Security Official *[Kiev International]* 20
Party Leader on Conditions for Ratifying START I *[Kiev International]* 21
Morozov Bans Servicemen's Contacts With Russian Chauvinists *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 7 May]* . 21

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Government Reacts to Introduction of Kyrgyz Currency *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Nazarbayev Talks With Indian Ambassador *[KAZTAG]* 22
Nazarbayev Addresses Ideological Conference *[Almaty Radio]* 22

Tajikistan

Opposition Forces Said To Enter From Afghanistan *[Radio Rossii]* 23
Authorities Seize 'Islamic Opposition' Arms Caches *[Dushanbe Radio]* 23
Prime Minister Appeals for Aid To Overcome Storm Damage *[Moscow TV]* 23

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Rejects Grachev Statement on Weapons Deliveries *[AZERTAC]* 24
Russian Envoy in Karabakh To Press Tripartite Plan *[TURAN]* 24
President, Prime Minister Plan Visits to UK *[TURAN]* 24
Baku Agrees to Consulate in Tabriz *[Baku TV]* 24

Georgia

Russian Troop Unit Attacked in Kutaisi; Troops Open Fire *[Radio Rossii]* 25
Attackers Identified as Mkhedrioni Members *[Radio Rossii]* 25
Shevardnadze: Unofficial Armed Group Behind Attack *[Radio Rossii]* 25
Shevardnadze Warns of 'Catastrophe' *[Radio Rossii]* 25
Kutaisi Mayor Details Events *[Tbilisi Radio]* 25
Abkhazian Forces Launch Attack on Gumista Front 11 May *[Tbilisi Radio]* 26

BALTIC STATES

Lithuania

Lithuania Accepted Into Council of Europe *[Moscow TV]* 27
Foreign Minister Meets NATO, EC Officials on Relations *[BNS]* 27
Polish Ambassador Says Border With Lithuania 'Final' *[BNS]* 27
Further on Prime Minister's Interview on Market Economy *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 22 Apr]* 27
Landsbergis Comments on Russia's Withdrawal Plans *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 24 Apr]* 29

East Asia
ANNEX

FBIS-EAS-93-090-A *12 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

International Affairs

Sihanouk, PRC Comment on Cambodia Elections *[Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 9 May]* ... 1

Japan

Writer Urges Calm in Tokyo-U.S. Relations *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 3 May]* 1
Miyazawa Confirms Yeltsin Invited to Tokyo Summit *[TOKYO SHIMBUN 7 May]* 2
'Source' Questions Autumn Yeltsin Visit *[MAINICHI SHIMBUN 7 May]* 3
Official Urges Miyazawa: Discuss Territories *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 8 May]* 3
Editorial: Yeltsin Breaks 'Friendly Atmosphere' *[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 7 May]* 3
Calm Response to Postponed Yeltsin Visit Urged *[MAINICHI SHIMBUN 7 May]* 4
Survey Results: Deal With Corruption First *[ASAHI SHIMBUN 3 May]* 5
Firms 'Frantic' To Increase Chip Production *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 29 Apr]* 5
Prospects for Economic Turnaround Viewed *[SHUKAN TOYO KEIZAI 20 Mar]* 6

Mongolia

Japanese Experts Repair Medical Equipment *[MONTSAME]* 9
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Swedish Institute *[MONTSAME]* 9
Hural Votes Down Court Decision on Constitution *[MONTSAME]* 9
MPRP Presidential Candidate Discusses Views *[MONTSAME]* 10
Trade Unions Urge Minimum Wage Level Revision *[MONTSAME]* 10
Thawing Snow Causes Floods in Gobi Altay Region *[MONTSAME]* 10
Professors Appointed to Nuclear Scientific Council *[MONTSAME]* 10
MONTSAME Carries Press Review 7 May 10

North Korea

UN Envoy Hints at High-Level Talks With U.S. *[Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN 9 May]* 11
* Economic Difficulties Pressure Leadership *[Tokyo FORESIGHT Feb]* 11

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-090-A *12 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

Moscow Concerned Over Bosnia, Sends Churkin To Meet Tudjman *[INTERFAX]* 1
Pretoria Supports Yeltsin's Reforms, Looks Forward to Visit *[INTERFAX]* 1
Berdennikov Appointed Ambassador to Disarmament Conference *[INTERFAX]* 1
Oil, Cotton Trade Agreement With Turkmenistan Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 1

Russia National Affairs

News of Dismissal 'Came as a Surprise' to Khizha *[INTERFAX]* 2
Yeltsin Summons Shakhray To Moscow 'Urgently' *[INTERFAX]* 2
Shakhray Says Congress Alone Cannot Approve Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 2
Yeltsin, Deputies Discuss Draft of Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 2
Kotenkov on Adopting Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 3
Khasbulatov Comments on Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 3
Yeltsin Signs Decree on Framing New Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 4
Chernomyrdin Satisfied With Trip To North Caucasus *[RIA]* 4
Ministry Denies Plans for Military Border Groups *[INTERFAX]* 4
Three New Deputies Appointed to Economics Ministry *[INTERFAX]* 5
Social Democrats Urge Yeltsin, Deputies To Speed Reform *[INTERFAX]* 5

Russia Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov on Victory Day Celebrations *[INTERFAX]* 5
Legislator on Parliamentary Immunity for May Day Organizer *[INTERFAX]* 6

Ukraine International Affairs

Vance-Owen Plan 'Fundamental for Peace' in Bosnia *[INTERFAX]* 6

Belarus

Shushkevich Against Joining CIS Treaty on Security *[INTERFAX]* 6
Sources Say Minsk Plans To Sell Arms to Tajikistan *[INTERFAX]* 6

Moldova

Chisinau Satisfied With Dniester Leaders Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 6

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Discusses Priorities in Foreign Affairs *[INTERFAX]* 7

Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek Requests IMF Aid To Support Currency *[INTERFAX]* 8
Bankers Admit Exchange of Rubles for Soms Sluggish *[INTERFAX]* 8

Tajikistan

Kabul Refutes Allegations About Training Tajik Opposition *[INTERFAX]* 8

Armenia

Iran Denies Rumors on Arms Transit to Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 9

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Rejects Grachev Comments on Weapons Source *[INTERFAX]* 9
Elchibey Appoints New Commander of Interior Forces *[INTERFAX]* 9

Georgia

Shevardnadze To Hold 'Serious Negotiations' With Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 9
Shevardnadze Convinced Abkhazia Conflict To End 'Soon' *[INTERFAX]* 10
Shevardnadze Comments on Russian Use of Force *[INTERFAX]* 10

Estonia

11th Round of Talks With Russia Opens 12 May *[BALTFAX]* 10

Latvia

MP's Begin Petition Drive To Force Godmanis' Resignation *[BALTFAX]* 10

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-091 *13 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AL-AHRAM Article Cites Ukrainian Missiles to Iran *[Moscow International]* 1
Scandinavian Ministers Discuss Baltic Request for Weapons *[PRAVDA 7 May]* 1
USSR, Japan Allegedly Dumped Mustard Gas at Sea *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Council of CIS Defense Ministers Meets in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Ukrainian Delegation Absent *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Shaposhnikov Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Shaposhnikov on Meeting Agenda *[Russian TV]* 3
Moldova Absent From Yerevan Interior Ministers Meeting *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Russia's Yerin Comments *[Moscow TV]* 4
CIS Heads of State To Discuss Collective Security *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 May]* 4
Interstate Space Council Discusses Cooperation in Kiev *[UKRINFORM]* 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Talbott Unveils U.S. Nuclear Arms Mediation Offer *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 12 May]* 6
Kozyrev Protests Estonia's Admission to European Council *[Moscow TV]* 6
Further on Protest *[BNS]* 6
Protests Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 7
Embassy in Zagreb Releases Statement on Churkin Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Yastrzhembskiy Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Yastrzhembskiy on Results of Russian, Abkhaz Talks *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Yeltsin Message to Shevardnadze *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 8
Situation Reviewed *[Moscow TV]* 8
Kozyrev Cited on Veto on UN Cyprus Vote *[Moscow TV]* 9
Results of Mulroney Visit to Russia Assessed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 9
Admiral Kasatonov on Black Sea Fleet *[ROSSIYA 12-18 May]* 10
Government To Help Train Kazakh Nuclear Specialists *[Radio Rossii]* 11
Baltic States' Council of Europe Membership Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 12 May]* 11
Commentary on Cooperation With Western Nations *[Moscow International]* 12
Border Revision Suggested To Resolve Karabakh Conflict *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 12
Yeltsin Signs Decree Establishing Ties With Eritrea *[Radio Rossii]* 13
Nationalists Visit Europe, Claim Western Support *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 11 May]* 13

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Constitution Issues

Yeltsin Addresses Working Group on Constitution *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 12 May]* 15
Reactions to Yeltsin's Draft Constitution Viewed *[Radio Rossii]* 15
Yeltsin Seen 'Pushing Ahead' on Constitution *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 16
Yeltsin's Draft Speeds Up Work on New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Draft Constitution Commission Members Listed *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Further on Khasbulatov Meeting on Constitution 18
Election of Local Leaders Urged *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
'Excerpts' of Khasbulatov Address *[Russian TV]* 18
Regions May Combine Drafts *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 19
Khasbulatov Article on Ending Constitutional Crisis *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 20

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Chairs Council Presidium Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Council Calls For Draft Programs *[Russian TV]* 25
Rutskoy Relieved of Duty of Receiving Ambassadors *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Yeltsin Assassination Attempt Reports Called 'Provocative' *[Moscow TV]* 25
Kozyrev Comments on Recent 'Cadre Purge' *[SEGODNYA 12 May]* 26

Yeltsin Aide on Reshuffle, Rumored Replacement *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 26
Further on Shakhray Comments at Roundtable *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 27
Referendum Results Show 26 Territories Opposed Yeltsin *[Radio Rossii]* 27
Presidential Aide Volkov Interviewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 12 May]* 27
Social Democrats Elect New Leaders; Party Splits *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 12 May]* 29
Gaydar Interviewed on Possible Return to Government
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 12 May] 30

Economic Issues

Soskovets Gives News Conference on Industrial Policy *[Moscow TV]* 31
Comments on Economic Reform *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 32
Chernomyrdin Urges 'Cooperation' Among Various Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Describes Government's Economic Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Calls For Accord in Curbing Inflation *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Yeltsin Issues Decree on Privatization Guarantees *[Radio Rossii]* 33

Supreme Soviet

Yeltsin's Actions on New Constitution Challenged *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Constitutional Commission Timetable Reported *[Radio Rossii]* 34
Exclusion of Officials From Rostrum Protested *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 34
Soviet of Nationalities Adopts Bill on Auditing *[Moscow Radio]* 34

Regional Affairs

Chechen Parliament Removes Dudayev From Government *[Radio Rossii]* 34
More on Chernomyrdin Visit to North Caucasus *[IZVESTIYA 12 May]* 34
Trip Results Evaluated *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 13 May]* 35
Shakhray in Murmansk To Explain Yeltsin Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 36
Aushev Welcomes Plan for More Troops in Ingushetia *[Radio Rossii]* 36
Yeltsin, Chita Administration Head Discuss Referendum *[Radio Rossii]* 36
Dudayev Views Relations With Russia, Ukraine *[ZA VILNU UKRAYINU 6 May]* 36

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Strobe Talbott, Delegation in Kiev for Visit *[Kiev International]* 39
Trip Shows Change in U.S. 'Tactic' *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 39
Results Seen as 'Nil' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 40
Environmental Protection Minister Views START I *[KHRESHCHATYK 28 Apr]* 40
Defense Minister on Black Sea Fleet Ownership *[UKRINFORM]* 41
Russian Envoy Blames Ukraine for Stalemate *[Kiev International]* 41
Plyushch Meets With Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Kiev International]* 41
Morozov Holds Meeting With Polish Army Chief *[Kiev International]* 41
Agreements Reached With Turkmenistan in Transport *[UKRINFORM]* 42

National Affairs

Parties Hold Talks on Possible New Constitution *[Kiev International]* 42
Democratic Party Urges Extraordinary Measures *[UKRINFORM]* 42
Greens Party Opposes Retention of Nuclear Arms *[KHRESHCHATYK 28 Apr]* 42
Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman's Remarks Criticized *[SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA 30 Apr]* 43
Parliament Decrees No Price Raise Until After 18 May *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 11 May]* 43
Economic Statistics Released for First Quarter *[ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY]* 43
Cabinet, Trade Union Groups Sign Agreement *[Kiev International]* 43

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Defense Pact on Bilateral Contacts With Poland Signed *[VO SLAVU RODINY 4 May]* 45
Kebich's Visit to United Arab Emirates Achieved Goals *[Minsk Radio]* 46
Delegation Attending CIS Summit 'With Guarded Optimism' *[Moscow Mayak]* 46
Import of Russian Newspapers, Except IZVESTIYA, Banned *[PRAVDA 12 May]* 46
Army Shortfall Attributed to 'Draft-Dodgers' *[RID]* 46
Servicemen Banned From 'Sociopolitical' Activity *[Minsk Radio]* 46

Moldova

Parliament Discusses Draft Law on Status of Gagauz *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 47
Snegur Urges Accord With Gagauzia *[BASAPRESS]* 47
Ethnic Gagauz Reserve Right to Self-Determination *[BASAPRESS]* 47
Gagauz Leader Analyzes Prospects for Settlement *[ROSSIYA 12-18 May]* 48
Government Achieves Understanding With Dniester *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Dniester Leader Caraman Cited on Talks With Snegur *[BASAPRESS]* 48
Memorandum Signed With CSCE Mission on Dniester *[Moscow Radio]* 49
Dniester Republic Bank Financed From Moscow *[BASAPRESS]* 49
Sangheli Receives UNDP Officials, Discusses Assistance *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 49
Snegur Meets With UN Official *[Bucharest Radio]* 49

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Spokesman Discusses Developments on Tripartite Plan *[Yerevan International]* 50
Karabakh Official Comments *[SNARK]* 50
Azerbaijan Said Provoking Karabakh To Start Offensive *[SNARK]* 50
More on 'Provocative Activities' *[Yerevan Radio]* 51
Defense Department Reports 3 Soldiers Wounded *[SNARK]* 51

Azerbaijan

Foreign Ministry on 'New Armenian Aggression' *[TURAN]* 51
Calls For UN Action *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Defense Ministry Reports Continuing Armenian Fire on NAR *[TURAN]* 52
More on Fighting *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Troops 'Forced' To Retaliate Against Armenian Shelling *[TURAN]* 52
Mitterrand Letter Notes Concern Over Conflict *[TURAN]* 53
National Assembly Confirms 10 Cabinet Ministers *[Baku TV]* 53
Mullazade To Head Foreign Relations Department *[Baku Radio]* 53

Georgia

Hostages Freed From Russian 'Army Township' *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Shevardnadze Interviewed on Kutaisi Investigation *[Tbilisi TV]* 53
Russian Troops Press Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Rocket Attack Against Sukhumi City Center Reported *[Moscow Radio]* 54
Recent Resignations of Kitovani, Ioseliani Analyzed *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 16 May]* 54

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Talks With Russia on Military Withdrawal Resume *[Tallinn Radio]* 56
Defense Minister Rebas Interviewed *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 24 Apr]* 56

Latvia

Ministry Protests to Russia Over Baltic Maneuvers *[Riga Radio]* 58
More on Protest *[Riga Radio]* 58
Russian Stance on Estonia Council Membership Criticized *[LETA]* 58
Iraqis Said Receiving Russian Training at Naval Base *[Riga Radio]* 58
Premier, Delegation Return From Visit to France *[Riga Radio]* 59

Lithuania

Foreign Minister Meets EC Commissioner *[Vilnius International]* 59
Presidential Aide Discusses Foreign Policy *[VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS 20 Apr]* 59
Economic Committee Head Criticizes Agrarian Reform *[VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS 17 Apr]* 60

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-092 *14 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

14 May CIS Leaders Summit Previewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Niyazov Arrives 13 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Nazarbayev Arrives, Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Ukrainian President To Attend *[Russian TV]* 2
Leaders To Discuss Military Document *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Leaders To Sign Economic Union Declaration *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Azerbaijan's Premier Rules Out Membership *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Kyrgyz Vice President Comments *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Possibility of Economic Union Questioned *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Shaposhnikov Urges Integration of CIS Armed Forces *[Moscow TV]* 4
Further on Meeting *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Interior Ministers Sign Cooperation Agreement *[SNARK]* 5
Meeting Ends in Yerevan *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Interstate Space Council Discusses Cooperation in Kiev *[UKRINFORM]* 5
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 May 5

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Shevardnadze Arrives for Summit With Yeltsin 7
Hopes For 'Warming' of Ties *[Moscow TV]* 7
May Seek Ukrainian Peacekeeping Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Meeting Begins *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Kozyrev Interviewed on Bosnia, Other Issues *[Paris LE MONDE 14 May]* 8
Kozyrev Unable To Attend Council of Europe Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 9
Ingredients of Administration's Bosnia Decision Eyed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 May]* 9
Christopher Comments at START Senate Hearing *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 May]* 10
Gen Nikolayev Interviewed on Washington Visit Results *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 May]* 10
IZVESTIYA Profiles Ambassador Pickering *[13 May]* 11
Grachev Meets Turkish Chief of Staff *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 May]* 12
Azerbaijan Urged To Hand Over Convicted Soldiers *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Navy Condemns Pay Sanctions Against Black Sea Crew *[Moscow Radio]* 12
Deputy Foreign Minister on Relations With Ukraine *[Moscow International]* 12
Developments in Dniester Region Analyzed *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 16 May]* 13
DPRK Envoy to China Cited on Nuclear Issues *[Moscow International]* 14
Eritrea Recognized; Yeltsin To Miss Independence Ceremony *[ITAR-TASS]* 14

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Rutskoy Hits Recent Drafts of Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 15
Zorkin Warns Against Change to Constitution *[Russian TV]* 17
Constitutional Court Member Criticizes Zorkin *[Russian TV]* 18
Yeltsin Aide on Working Commission's Task *[IZVESTIYA 14 May]* 18
Rutskoy: Yeltsin Draft Prepares for 'Monarch,' 'Dictator' *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
President's Working Commission Meeting Viewed *[SEGODNYA 14 May]* 20
Shakhray on Overcoming Constitutional Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Constitutional Commission's Sheynis Interviewed *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 16 May]* 21
Constitutional Court To Examine IZVESTIYA Dispute *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Poltoranin on Plan To Abolish Press, Information Ministry *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Lisin Defends Role of Mass Media Committee *[PRAVDA 12 May]* 24
'Free Russia' Youth Movement on Current Issues *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 25
Prosecutor's Office Petitions Supreme Soviet *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 25

Commentary Views Implications of Skokov's Ouster *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 16 May]* 25

Economic Issues

Council Presidium Discusses Economic Restructuring *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Draft Reform Program Viewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Ministry Releases Gross Domestic Product Forecast *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Personnel Changes in Economy Ministry Pondered *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 13 May]* 28
Anti-Inflation Policy Seen Existing in Words Only *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 16 May]* 29
Jan-Apr Industrial Output Said Down 19% From 1992 *[Radio Rossii]* 29
Lobov Brings Former Gosplan Men Into Economy Ministry *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 13 May]* .. 30
Privatization Under Way in Fuel, Power Sector *[Russian TV]* 30
Yeltsin Decree Extends Federal Workers' Leave *[Moscow Radio]* 30
Government Seen Lacking Economic Policy *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 16 May]* 30

Military & Space Issues

State Border To Be Fortified By End of Century *[Moscow TV]* 31
Plans Begun To Phase Out Obsolete Missiles *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
'Most Secret' Su-24 Bomber Aircraft Profiled *[Moscow TV]* 32
Official Says Most Defense Enterprises To Be Privatized *[Radio Rossii]* 33
Further on Six Cosmos Satellites Launched 11 May *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 May]* 33

Supreme Soviet

Commission on Economic Reform Established *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Constitutionality of Yeltsin Acts Questioned *[Moscow TV]* 33
Chambers Endorse Appeal to Court *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Proceedings for 14 May Joint Session Reported 34
Yeltsin Constitution To Be Considered *[Radio Rossii]* 34
Information Center Denied Finance *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Financial Issues, Court Appeal Discussed *[Russian TV]* 34
Constitutional Court Appeal Approved *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Proceedings of 11 May Presidium Session Detailed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 35

Regional Affairs

Local Reaction to North Caucasus Tour Detailed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 12 May]* 35
Abdulatipov Cited on Visit *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 36
Businessman Charges Kalmyk President With Corruption *[FEDERATSIYA 13 May]* 36
Tatar Speaker on Constitution, Relations With Russia *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 37
Situation of 'Two Mordovian Governments' Viewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 12 May]* 38
Commission Formed To Determine Ingush Border *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Yeltsin Signs Document on Komi Economic Development *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Yeltsin Decrees Restrictions on Krasnodar Kray *[Moscow Radio]* 39
'Rational' Regional Policy From Center Needed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 12 May]* 40

UKRAINE

International Affairs

U.S. Envoy Warns of Possible 'International Isolation' *[PRAVDA 14 May]* 41
Said Pressuring State on Nuclear Arms *[SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA 30 Apr]* 41
Envoy Favorably Assesses Trip to Croatia, Slovenia *[UNIAR]* 42
Soldiers Protest Requirements for Baykonur Service *[KAZTAG]* 42
Picketers in Kiev Demand Release of Demjanjuk *[ZA VILNU UKRAYINU 8 May]* 42
Plyushch Signs Cooperation Documents, Ends Iran Visit *[Kiev International]* 42

National Affairs

Press Service Details Parliament's 11 May Activities *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 12 May]* 43
Parliament Adopts Bill on Refugees *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 11 May]* 43
Officers Selling Military Premises To Private Companies *[UNIAR]* 43
Minister Cited on Time, Funds Needed for Conversion *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 12 May]* 43

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Delegation Approaches CIS Summit With 'Moderate Optimism' *[Minsk Radio]* 44
Independent Trade Union Opposes Joining CIS Pact *[DOBRY VECHAR 4 May]* 44
Prime Minister Kebich Arrives in India for 3-Day Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Protocol on Economic Cooperation With Tajikistan Signed *[Minsk Radio]* 44
Cabinet Forms State Secretariat for Provinces *[BELINFORM]* 44
Democratic Forces Draft Law on Presidential Powers *[Minsk Radio]* 44

Moldova

Sangheli Addresses Parliament on Economic Problems *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Cooperation Agreement With Ukrainian Prosecutors *[UKRINFORM]* 45
Draft Constitution in Line With International Standards *[BASAPRESS]* 45
Draft Law on Gagauz Autonomy Submitted to Parliament *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 46
Self-Administration Rejected *[BASAPRESS]* 46
Further Reaction *[BASAPRESS]* 46
FPCD Leader Accuses Snegur of Harassment *[Bucharest COTIDIANUL 11 May]* 47

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Notes Priorities in Political Work *[IZVESTIYA 12 May]* 48
Nazarbayav Speaks at Workshop on Privatization *[KAZTAG]* 48
Deutsche Bank Opens Branch in Almaty *[KAZTAG]* 49
French Firm Funds Oil Prospecting *[Russian TV]* 49

Kyrgyzstan

Foreign Ministry Denies Report on Uzbek Military Buildup *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
President Discusses Economy, International Relations
[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES 12 May] 50
Prime Minister on CIS Meeting, Introduction of Currency *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Russian Banker on Currency *[Moscow Radio]* 51

Tajikistan

Islamic Armed Groups Concentrating on Afghan Border *[Moscow International]* 51
Premier on Economic Policies, Situation in Country *[Moscow International]* 51
Economy Minister: No Plans To Issue Own Currency *[Moscow Radio]* 52

Uzbekistan

President Receives Deutsche Bank Chief 8 May *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 52
Karimov Discusses Introduction of New Currency *[Moscow Radio]* 52
Government Adopts Resolution on Money Circulation *[Moscow Radio]* 53
Law on Cabinet of Ministers Introduced *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Foreign Minister Requests UN Representative in Region *[Yerevan Radio]* 54
U.S. Seeks Information on Captured Servicemen *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Parliament Ratifies Agreements With European, World Banks *[Yerevan International]* 54
Border Shelling, 14 May Meeting With Nakhichevan Reported *[SNARK]* 54
Azerbaijan Said Accumulating Forces at Karabakh Border *[SNARK]* 55
Azerbaijani-Karabakh Hostage Exchange Reported *[SNARK]* 55

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Rejects Grachev Charges on Arms Supplies
[AZERBAIJAN NEWS AGENCY] 55
Russian Division's Transfer Termed 'Violation' *[TURAN]* 55
State Adviser on Hopes for 14 May Talks *[AZERTAC]* 56

Gasymov Comments on Turkish-Russian Talks *[Baku Radio]* 56
Kerimov Meets With Turkish Ambassador *[Baku Radio]* 56
Supreme Soviet Head Comments on U.S. Visit *[TURAN]* 56
President Issues Decree on Handling POW's *[TURAN]* 56
Iranian Governor Visits Nakhichevan *[Tehran International]* 57
Azerbaijani-Iranian Cooperation Council Dissolved *[Baku Radio]* 57

Georgia

Shevardnadze Previews Meeting With Yeltsin *[Tbilisi TV]* 57
More Comment on Meeting, Abkhazia *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Russian Forces Say Shevardnadze Accusations 'Groundless' *[SNARK]* 60
Attacks on Russian Targets Attempt To Thwart Summit *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 May]* ... 60
Russian Units To 'Resolutely Rebuff' Attacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Sukhumi Subjected to Overnight Bombardment *[Tbilisi Radio]* 61
Government of Abkhazia Bans Opposition Activity *[SNARK]* 61
Abkhaz Defense Council Denies Authority of State *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 61
Abkhazian Leader Urges Cease-Fire, Troop Withdrawal *[Russian TV]* 62
Artillery Shells Abkhazian Positions 13 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
No Injuries Reported at Seismic Lab Shelling *[Moscow TV]* 62
'Zviadist' Leader Tries To Mediate Peace With Abkhazia *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 May]* . 62
Iranian Foreign Minister's Visit Seen as Significant *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 63
Shevardnadze Calls For Local Self-Government Law *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 63

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Council of Europe Approves Full Membership *[Tallinn Radio]* 64
Premier Comments *[Tallinn Radio]* 64
Russians Able To Neutralize Baltics 'Within 2 Days' *[BNS]* 64
Most Favored Nation Trade Agreement With Russia Initialed *[BNS]* 65

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Protests Baltic Fleet Maneuvers *[BNS]* 65
Talks on Russian Troop Pullout To Resume 17-20 May *[BNS]* 66
Russian Residency Decree Revised *[BNS]* 66
Economic Reforms Minister Addresses Economists *[Riga Radio]* 66

Lithuania

Decision Unanimous on Council of Europe Admission *[Vilnius International]* 68
Polish Sejm Delegation Ends Visit to Vilnius *[Warsaw PAP]* 69
EC Extends $30-Million Grant for Reforms *[BNS]* 69
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Interviews National Defense Minister *[13 May]* 69
Paper on 'Scandalous Affair' of Banknotes *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 70

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-093 *17 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS Leaders Issue Statements, Hold Summit 1
- Kravchuk Favors Further Integration *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
- Karimov Calls For Concrete Actions *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
- Ter-Petrosyan Comments on Conflicts *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
- Participants Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
- Yeltsin Addresses Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
- Leaders Adopt Economic Union Declaration *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
- Heads of State Hold News Conference *[Moscow TV]* 3

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on CIS Leaders' Meeting *[15 May]* 8
Shaposhnikov: Collective Security Not Aimed at Others *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Tajik Defense Minister Foresees No Major Opposition Offensive *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Belarus' Dashuk Appointed CIS Economic Court Chairman *[ITAR-TASS]* 9

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Foreign Ministry Welcomes U.S. Statement on SDI *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
U.S. Expert Says Arms Trade Could Hurt Ties *[Russian TV]* 10
Kozyrev Notes 'Unprecedented' Consensus on Vance-Owen Plan *[Moscow Radio]* 10
- Seeks 'Progressive Implementation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
- New Russian Initiatives Planned *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 May]* 11
- Churkin, Milosevic Talk on Phone *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
- Churkin Brokers Croat-Serb Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
- TV Commentator Views Referendum *[Russian TV]* 12
- PRAVDA Urges Veto of UN Operations *[14 May]* 12

Yeltsin, Shevardnadze Agree to 20 May Cease-Fire *[Radio Rossii]* 13
- Joint Communique Issued *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
- Shevardnadze 'Fully Satisfied' *[ITAR-TASS]* 14

'Great Difficulty' in Lithuanian Troop Withdrawal Talks *[Moscow Radio]* 14
West 'Closing Its Eyes' to Baltic Human Rights Problem *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 May]* 14
Further Objections to Council of Europe Decision Raised *[Moscow TV]* 15
Estonian Cyclists Stopped at Russian Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Cyclists Termed 'Provocative' *[Radio Rossii]* 15

Government Raises Cost of Estonian Visa *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 May]* 15
Map of Baltic CW Disposal Sites Forthcoming *[Moscow TV]* 16
Yeltsin, Moldova's Snegur Meet, Issue Communique *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
- Snegur Comments on Meeting *[Moscow Radio]* 16

Yeltsin Receives New Moldovan Ambassador *[BASAPRESS]* 17
Black Sea Fleet Officers Seek Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 May]* 17
Grachev Ends Visit to Turkey *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Turkey's Role in Karabakh Issue Examined *[PRAVDA 14 May]* 17
Captured Russian Deserters Sentenced by Azerbaijan *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 May]* 19
- Russian Parliament Seeks Deserters' Return *[ITAR-TASS]* 19

Russia, Czech Republic To Share Intelligence *[Moscow Radio]* 20
- Primakov Comments on Talks *[Moscow TV]* 20

Spokesman Explains Russian Veto on Cyprus *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Views Mideast Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russian-Arab Conference Opens in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Foreign Ministry Views Yemeni Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russia Reportedly To Adopt 'Tough' Line on Japan *[Tokyo TV]* 22
Japan To Open 2 Consulates in Far East *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 May]* 22

Japan Urges Ban on Radioactive Dumping at Sea *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Ministry Brands Kurils 'Document' Fraud *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Japan Grants $350 Million in Aid *[Russian TV]* 23
Commentator Cites Slow Pace of Western Aid *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Volskiy Cites Need For Foreign Investment Legislation *[Moscow TV]* 23

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets Senior Officials From Security Ministry *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Denies Barannikov Resignation Rumors *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Speaks Out on Mafia *[Russian TV]* 24
Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, Sobchak on New Draft Constitution *[Russian TV]* 24
Rumors of Threat on Yeltsin's Life Rejected *[SEGODNYA 14 May]* 25
More on Chernomyrdin on Government Policy *[IZVESTIYA 14 May]* 25
Rutskoy Hits Radicalism, Seeks Consensus *[PRAVDA 14 May]* 26
Revival Fund Audit Reportedly To Hurt Rutskoy *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 May]* 31
Shumeyko Denies Disbanding of Press, Information Bureau *[Russian TV]* 31
Talks to Women on Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Launches 'Ideological Purge' *[NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA 14-20 May]* 31
Yuriy Skokov Seen Challenging Yeltsin *[NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA 14-20 May]* 32
More on Khasbulatov Speech on Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 32
Federation Soviet Leaders' Statement on Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 34
Parties, Movements Set Up Roundtable on Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 35
Further on Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Democratic Russia Movement Absent *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 May]* 36
Foreign Minister Wants Referendum on Constitution *[Paris LE MONDE 14 May]* 36
Competing Constitutions Seen Hard To Reconcile *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 14 May]* 37
Yeltsin's Constitutional Strategy Analyzed *[SEGODNYA 14 May]* 37
St. Petersburg Mayor Views Adoption of New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Draft Constitution's Provisions on Regional Autonomy Eyed *[ROSSIYSKAYA VESTI 13 May]* .. 38
National Salvation Front Unveils Opposition Action Plan *[SEGODNYA 14 May]* 39
All-Russia Poll Shows 'Sinking Trust' in Government *[PRAVDA 14 May]* 40

Economic Issues

Paper Cites Quest for Optimum Economic Model *[IZVESTIYA 14 May]* 40
Article Scores Chernomyrdin Economic Recovery Plan *[PRAVDA 14 May]* 41
Government Reaffirms Support for Small Businesses *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Zaveryukha Says Agricultural Situation 'Critical' *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Economist Refutes Claims of End to Slump *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 13 May]* 42

Military Issues

Grachev Signs Order on Compulsory Insurance for Servicemen *[Radio Rossii]* 43
'Red Space' Program on Space Defense Systems *[Moscow TV]* 44

Supreme Soviet

Proceedings of 14 May Session Reported 45
New Media Committee Appointed *[Moscow TV]* 45
Budget Law Approved *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Yeltsin Amendments Rejected *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 May]* 45
Ryabov Backs Yeltsin on Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Domestic Program Considered *[Radio Rossii]* 46
Constitutional Process Debated *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Further on Constitutional Commission Working Group *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 47
Deputy Chairman Ispravnikov Interviewed *[Russian TV]* 47
Decree on Enacting Moscow Status Law *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 May]* 50
Decree on Space Program, Industry *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 51
Decree on Space Policy Priorities *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 May]* 53

Regional Affairs

Heads of Republics Criticize Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 May]* . 54
Criticism Analyzed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 May]* 55
Political Confrontation Continues in Chechen Republic *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Constitutional Court Backs Dudayev; Rivals Form Government
[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 May] 55
Chechen Premier Says Dudayev 'Must Step Down' *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Chechen Opposition Stresses Holding Referendum *[Russian TV]* 56
Attempt Made To Seize Groznyy Government Building 13 May *[Russian TV]* 56
Chechen Opposition Vows Rally To Continue Until Aims Met *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Dudayev on Presidential Rule Improving State Structure *[Moscow TV]* 57
Ossetian Congress Organizers on Lack of Peaceful Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Tatarstan's Mukhametshin Says Moscow Ignores Autonomy Moves *[Radio Rossii]* 58
Kalmykia Introduces Presidential Rule *[Moscow TV]* 58

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Assesses CIS Summit Meeting *[Kiev International]* 59
Supreme Council To Discuss START, NPT 18-21 May *[Kiev International]* 59
Plyushch Comments on Visit to Iran *[Kiev International]* 59

National Affairs

Kuchma on Need for More Powers To Carry Out Reforms *[Moscow TV]* 60
Republican Party Criticizes Government's Economic Failure *[Kiev International]* 61
Party Leader Warns of Communist 'Comeback' *[Kiev International]* 61
Official Blames Government for Crisis at Nuclear Plants
[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 13 May] 62

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich: Minsk Not To Sign Collective Security Treaty *[BELINFORM]* 63
Shushkevich Urges Support for Neutrality Policy *[BELINFORM]* 63
Supreme Soviet Presidium Drafts Agenda for 18 May Session *[Minsk Radio]* 63
Kebich-Led Delegation Completes Visit to UAE, India *[Minsk Radio]* 63

Moldova

Snegur Outlines Content of Talks With Yeltsin *[Moscow TV]* 64
Dniester Vice President Hails Talks With Snegur *[BASAPRESS]* 64

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Dushanbe Mayor Meets U.S. Ambassador *[Dushanbe Radio]* 65
UN Special Envoy Arrives, Comments on Mission *[Moscow TV]* 65
Iranian Embassy Rejects Report on Arms for Opposition *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed With Belarus *[Dushanbe Radio]* 65

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Explains State Structure, Economic Policy *[Moscow International]* 65
Niyazov's Comments on CIS Economic Union Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 66

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Parliament Speaker Undergoes 'Minor' Operation 14 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Defense Ministry: Baku Trying To Involve Nakhichevan, Turkey *[SNARK]* 67
Shelling Reportedly Prevents 13 May Hostage Transfer *[SNARK]* 67
Prime Minister, Chinese Ambassador Discuss Ties *[Yerevan International]* 67
Trade, Technical Cooperation Pact Signed With Greece *[Yerevan Radio]* 67

Azerbaijan

Strobe Talbott, Delegation Visit Baku *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Peace Process, Cease-Fire Discussed *[AZERTAC]* 68
Further on Meetings *[TURAN]* 68
Prime Minister To Attend CIS Summit as Observer *[Baku TV]* 68
Cease-Fire 'Communique' Signed Between Nakhichevan, Armenia *[TURAN]* 68
Supreme Court Decision on Russian Soldiers 'Final' *[TURAN]* 69
Chinese Science, Technology Delegation Arrives in Baku *[Baku TV]* 69

Georgia

Shevardnadze Comments on Moscow Talks With Yeltsin *[Tbilisi Radio]* 69
Defense Minister, Grachev Achieve 'Practical Agreements' *[Moscow Radio]* 69
Abkhazia Ready for Cease-Fire if Georgia Withdraws Troops *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Abkhazian Council Issues Statement on Sukhumi Attacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Abkhazian Official 'Ready' To Order Destruction of Esheri Lab *[Moscow TV]* 70
Criticizes Russian Media Coverage *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Iran's Va'ezi Arrives To Arrange Velayati 18-20 May Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 71

BALTIC STATES

Latvia

Jundzis, Gorbunovs Talk With Swedish Defense Minister *[Riga Radio]* 72
Navy Chief Condemns Lack of Nordic Aid *[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET 9 May]* 72

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-094 *18 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Shaposhnikov: Russia Supports Collective Security *[Moscow Radio]* 1
Latvian Envoy on Russian 'Defeat' at Council of Europe *[BNS]* 1
Internal Affairs Ministers Agree To Fight Crime *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 May]* 1
Antimonopoly Organs Agree on Cooperation Mechanism *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 2
Black Sea Fleet Boat 'Escaped' Crimean Base for Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 May 2
For 18 May 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev To Hold Consultations on Yugoslav Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Comments on Serb Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Arrives in Berlin *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Kozyrev, Kinkel Comment *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Churkin on Implementation of Vance-Owen Plan *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Press Comments on Yugoslav Situation 6
Diplomacy Warned of Dangers *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 May]* 6
Warning on Rushing Into Conflict *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 May]* 7
'Shock Assault' Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 18 May]* 8
Serbs Said Divided *[IZVESTIYA 18 May]* 9
PRAVDA Criticizes German Moves *[18 May]* 9
West Said Imposing Plan *[PRAVDA 18 May]* 10
Head of Russian UNPROFOR Contingent Interviewed *[Moscow TV]* 11
Grachev Comments on Issues at News Conference 11
Wants Agreement on Bosnia *[Moscow TV]* 11
Views Turkey Visit, Georgia Talks *[Moscow TV]* 12
Says Azerbaijan Imports Weapons *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Wants Azerbaijan To Extradite Servicemen *[Moscow Radio]* 12
Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Reportedly End in Failure *[AFP]* 12
Condemned Soldiers in Azerbaijan May Be Swapped for Arms *[Moscow TV]* 13
Rutskoy Urges Pardon *[Moscow Radio]* 13
Kuzbass Demands Handover *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Yeltsin Cited on Talks With Shevardnadze *[Tbilisi Radio]* 13
Shokhin Comments on Possibility of Economic Union *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Further Reaction to U.S. Decision on Abandoning SDI 14
Step in Right Direction *[Moscow International]* 14
START II Played Decisive Role *[IZVESTIYA 15 may]* 14
Commentary on U.S. Moves To Resume Nuclear Testing *[Moscow International]* 15
Shumeyko Visits U.S., Views Constitutional Process *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Polish Deputy Premier Meets Chernomyrdin, Shokhin *[Warsaw PAP]* 16
Talks Conclude *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Western Group of Forces Commander Discusses Withdrawal *[Moscow TV]* 17
Exchange of Workers with Germany Agreed *[Russian TV]* 18
Spy Who Fled Sweden Said To Pick Up Fee From Moscow *[IZVESTIYA 14 May]* 18
Nakasone Regrets Yeltsin Visit Postponement *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Embassy in Japan Denies Reversion to Old Policies *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Vietnamese Envoy Calls on Khasbulatov *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 19
Delegation Head Comments on Talks in Havana *[ITAR-TASS]* 19

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets With Democratic Representatives 17 May 21
Committee Issues Statement *[Moscow Radio]* 21
Yeltsin Draft Should Be 'Basis' *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Yeltsin Cited on Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 21
New Constitution Will Be 'Full Victory' *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Democrats Abolishing 'Anti-Market Structures' *[Moscow TV]* 22
Defense Ministry Not Against Yeltsin Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Grachev Outlines Military Doctrine, Use of Nuclear Arms *[Radio Rossii]* 22
Zorkin Interviewed on Constitution Issues *[Russian TV]* 22
Yeltsin Draft Seen as Threat to Democracy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 26
Presidental Staffer on Constitution Drafts *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 May]* 28
Security Bodies Slack on Constitutional Order *[Radio Rossii]* 30
Khasbulatov Views 'Crisis of State' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 May]* 30
More on Zorkin Speech to Regional Leaders *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 37
More on Council of Ministers Presidium Session *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 May]* 38
New Government Press Service Chief Appointed *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

Regional Affairs

Caucasian 'Highlanders' May Act Against Russian Interests *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Officials Assess Situation *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 May]* 40
Moscow Leaflets Urge Expulsion of Caucasus Visitors *[SEGODNYA 14 May]* 40
Situation in N. Caucasus Said Under Control *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Regional Officials, Shakhray Discuss Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 41
Regional Leaders Support Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 41
Kuzbass Threatens Reprisals for Penalizing Russian Soldiers *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Kemerovo Official Expresses Concern Over Rutskoy Visit *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Oblast Administration Personnel Changes Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 May]* 42

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Delegations Work Out Recommendations on Black Sea Fleet *[Kiev International]* 43
Republican Party Statement on Relations With Russia *[NARDONA HAZETA May]* 43
Shipping Company Demands Action Over UN Sanctions Losses *[Kiev International]* 43
* Ukraine's Ethnic Hungarian Minority Expands Activities 43
* Meeting With Deputy Secretary *[Uzhhorod IGAZ SZO 17 Apr]* 43
* Hungarian Scientific Association *[Uzhhorod IGAZ SZO 17 Apr]* 44
* Hungarian Children's Association *[Uzhhorod IGAZ SZO 3 Apr]* 44

National Affairs

Kuchma Interviewed on Government's Economic Program *[URYADOVYY KURYER 15 May]* ... 45

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Spokesman on CIS Integration, Tripartite Meeting *[Yerevan International]* 49
Views Outcome of Negotiations With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Azerbaijan

Presidential Spokesman Comments on Moscow Talks *[TURAN]* 49
Court Offical Sees No Reason To Release Russian Soldiers *[TURAN]* 50
Elchibey Sends Congratulations to Turkey's New President *[Baku Radio]* 50

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Relations With Russia *[Tbilisi Radio]* 50
Reported Buildup of Russian Forces Protested *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Shevardnadze Appoints Representative to Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Ioseliani on Abkhazian Conflict, Russian Involvement *[Russian TV]* 53
Iran's Velayati Postpones Visit *[Tbilisi Radio]* 55
Foreign Minister, German Envoy Discuss Shevardnadze Visit *[Tbilisi Radio]* 55

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Strobe Talbott Meets President, Prime Minister *[Tallinn International]* 56
President Hails Membership in Council of Europe *[BNS]* 56
Velliste Says Membership Offers 'Protective Shield' *[BNS]* 56
Defense Ministry Chancellor Dismissed *[Tallinn International]* 56
Swedish Defense Minister Arrives on Visit *[Tallinn Radio]* 56

Latvia

State Minister Views Russian Troop Withdrawal Talks *[Riga Radio]* 57
Russian Team Suggests Army Remain Until 2003 *[Riga Radio]* 57
Prime Minister Meets With IMF Experts *[Riga Radio]* 57
Swedish Defense Minister Offers Military Hardware *[Stockholm Radio]* 57
German Bundestag President Meets With Leaders *[Hamburg DPA]* 58

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-094-A *18 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

Kozyrev Begins Six-Day Tour for Yugoslav Settlement *[INTERFAX]* 1
Itinerary Outlined *[INTERFAX]* 1
Grachev Says Troops Not To Be Sent To Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 2
Government To Ignore 'Unconvincing' Bosnian Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 2
Georgian Prime Minister Lauds Yeltsin-Shevardnadze Talks *[INTERFAX]* 3
Moscow, U.S. To Sign Contract on Highly Enriched Uranium *[INTERFAX]* 3
May Solve Uranium Dumping Dispute by 1 Aug *[INTERFAX]* 3
Japan's Kunadze 'Guardedly Optimistic' on Ties *[INTERFAX]* 4
Kozyrev Meets Former Japanese Premier Nakasone *[INTERFAX]* 4
Yarov Says Black Sea Fleet Talks at 'Deadlock' *[INTERFAX]* 4
Moscow Concerned About Kiev's Stand on Nuclear Issues *[INTERFAX]* 5
Gromov on Tajikistan Situation, Withdrawal From Baltics *[INTERFAX]* 5

Russia National Affairs

Reshuffling of Presidential Team Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 5
Congress Should Adopt Constitution With Proviso *[INTERFAX]* 5
Replacing Officials Not Connected With New Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 6
Shakhray on Putting New Constitution in Effect *[INTERFAX]* 6
Yeltsin Continues Work on Revising Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 6
Yeltsin on Process of Adopting New Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 7
Disguised Riot Police Provoked 1 May Violence *[INTERFAX]* 7
Kozyrev on Rumors About Replacements in Foreign Ministry *[INTERFAX]* 7
Yeltsin Appoints New Chief of Maritime Region *[INTERFAX]* 8

Russia Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Approves Law on State Secrets *[RIA]* 8
Supreme Soviet Fails To Further Work on Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 8
Supreme Soviet Fails To Approve Law on Arms *[INTERFAX]* 8

Russia Regional Issues

Dudayev Urges Yeltsin To End 'Provocations' *[INTERFAX]* 8
Chechen Assembly: President Trying To Establish Autocracy *[INTERFAX]* 9
Tatarstan Parliament Not To Debate Constitution Drafts *[INTERFAX]* 9

Ukraine International Affairs

Kiev Denies Allegations of Supplying Iran With Missiles *[INTERFAX]* 9

Tajikistan

Armed Opposition Group Abandons Captured Beachhead *[INTERFAX]* 10
Military, Political Situation in Country Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 10

Turkmenistan

Niyazov: Currency Exchange To Last Three Months *[INTERFAX]* 11
Vice Premier: CIS Accords Contradict Almaty Declaration *[INTERFAX]* 11

Uzbekistan

Law on Cabinet of Ministers Comes Into Force *[INTERFAX]* 11

Azerbaijan

Clinton Said Concerned Over Hostilities With Armenia *[INTERFAX]* 12
Baku Says Grachev Tries To Justify Aggression in Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 12
Baku Says Armenia Not To Follow UN Resolution on Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 12
Elchibey on POW's; Medzhlis Head Rejects 'Special Status' *[INTERFAX]* 12
Elchibey Tightens Controls Over Interior Troops *[INTERFAX]* 13

Lithuania

Russian Defense Minister Arrives *[INTERFAX]* 13
Vilnius, Russia Resume Talks on Troop Withdrawal *[BALTFAX]* 14

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-095 *19 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Karabakh View Tripartite Peace Plan 1
Plan Submitted to Yerevan, Karabakh *[Yerevan Radio]* 1
Azerbaijan To Examine Plan *[TURAN]* 1
Schedule of Revised Plan Reported *[ASSA-IRADA]* 1
Plan Contradicts UN Resolution *[SNARK]* 1
NATO States Endorse Baltic Bid To Speed Russian Withdrawal *[BNS]* 1
Black Sea Admiral Says NATO 'Probing' Area *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
CIS Laser, Other Equipment Exhibition Held in Finland *[Moscow TV]* 2
Canada Donates $2 Million to Baltic States for Medical Aid *[BNS]* 3

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia's Grachev Discusses Troop Withdrawal From Baltics 4
Arrives in Vilnius *[Vilnius Radio]* 4
Meets Lithuanian President *[Vilnius Radio]* 4
Notes Brazauskas 'Positive' on Withdrawal *[Russian TV]* 4
Says Russia 'Might Fail' To Meet Timetable *[BNS]* 4
Notes Compromise on Nearly All Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Lithuanian Adviser Notes Problems With Plan *[BNS]* 5
Offers Estonia Troop Withdrawal in 1993 *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Ready for Withdrawal From Latvia Before 1994 *[BNS]* 6
Shaposhnikov, Ivashov Comment on CIS Leaders' Meetings *[Moscow Radio]* 6
Papers Comment on CIS Leaders' Summit, Economic Union 7
Union Seen To Threaten Russia's Interests *[IZVESTIYA 18 May]* 7
Positive, Negative Results Noted *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 7
Leaders Seen Moving Toward Nazarbayev Analysis *[PRAVDA 18 May]* 8
Unanimity on Economic Union Idea Hailed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 May]* 9
CIS Official Discusses Relation of Constitution, Defense *[Moscow Radio]* 10
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 May Evening Papers 10
19 May Press Review 11

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev Says All Sides Agree on Fulfilling Vance-Owen *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Arrives in Belgrade *[Moscow Radio]* 12
Discusses Problems With Leaders *[Russian TV]* 12
Comments on Talks in Croatia *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Says Referendum Must Not Block Vance-Owen *[Moscow TV]* 12
Arrives in Rome for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Germany Praises Russian 'Initiative' *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Solton Commentary Noted *[Moscow International]* 14
Report Views U.S. Attitude Toward Bosnian Situation *[Moscow TV]* 14
Ambartsumov Wants Vance-Owen Plan Amended *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Paper Hits Anti-Serb Posturing of 'Hawks' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 18 May]* 15
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives News Briefing 16
Extension of Nuclear Test Ban Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Comments on Japanese Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Views Estonia in Council of Europe *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
French Navy Officer: Russia Unable To Destroy Submarines *[Paris LE MONDE 18 May]* 17
Yeltsin Meets Former Japanese Prime Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Urges Flexibility on Territorial Issue *[Tokyo KYODO]* 18

Japanese Boats Detained for Fishing Near Kuril Islands *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Poland's Goryszewski Visits Shokhin 18 May 18
Agreement on 'Zero Option' Reached *[Warsaw PAP]* 18
Goryszewski Ends Visit *[Warsaw PAP]* 18
Clinton Drops 'Transparent Hint' on Nuclear Testing *[IZVESTIYA 19 May]* 19
Commander in Chief Interviewed on START II *[IZVESTIYA 14 May]* 19
U.S., Russian Arctic Rescue Teams Received *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 May]* 21
Commentary on Military Conversion in Russia, U.S. *[Moscow International]* 21
Program Discusses West's Role in Military Conversion *[Russian TV]* 21
Ties Restored With Czech Intelligence; CIA Meeting Planned *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 23
Grachev Comments on Karabakh Conflict, Arms Sales to Turkey *[SNARK]* 24
Abkhazia Peace Will Need 'A Lot More Effort' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 May]* 24
Leadership Urged To Pull Troops Out of Georgia *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 18 May]* 25
Foreign Ministry Aide on Veto of UN Cyprus Resolution *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 25
Khasbulatov Meets With South African Ambassador *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Comments on Constitution *[Moscow Radio]* 26
Communications Agreement Signed With Canada *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Ambartsumov on Prospects for Admission to Council of Europe *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Council of Europe Stance on Estonian, Russian Entry Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 27
Trade Pacts Reached With Estonia, But Troops Issue Remains *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 May]* 28

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Chairs Meeting on Crime, May Day Events *[Radio Rossii]* 29
Procurator General Reports Local Bodies Exceeding Powers *[Moscow Radio]* 29
'Cadre Purge' Presages 'Strong-Arm' Yeltsin Strategy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 29
Ryabov Calls For End to Confrontation With Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
'Government Circles' Say Barannikov May Join 'Retirees'
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 15 May] 30
Aide Complains of Rutskoy's 'Persecution' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 30
Adamishin on Problems in Pursuit of Foreign Policy *[Moscow International]* 32
Plans for Tightening Border Protection Aired *[PRAVDA 15 May]* 33
'Renewal' Faction Warns Against Radicalism *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 May]* 34
Zhirinovskiy To Run for President; Cited on Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Views Developments *[Budapest PESTI HIRLAP 15 May]* ... 35
Coup Leaders' Trial Resumes, Adjourns 18 May *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Prosecution Team Reportedly Dismissed *[Radio Rossii]* 36
Adjournment Viewed *[Radio Rossii]* 36

Constitution Issues

Yeltsin Condemns Parliament's Confrontational Tactics *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Filatov Briefs Newsmen on Drafting of Constitution *[Russian TV]* 37
Drafts May Be Merged *[Moscow TV]* 37
'Lies' of Yeltsin Draft's Critics Assailed *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 38
Khasbulatov on Constitutional Crisis *[Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET 16 May]* 40
Republicans Think Both Constitution Drafts Flawed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 41
PRAVDA Scorns Yeltsin Move To Complete Constitution *[14 May]* 41
Muscovites Surveyed on Two Draft Constitutions *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 18 May]* .. 42

Economic Issues

Fedorov Opens Industrialist, Government Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Fedorov on Payments Crisis *[Moscow TV]* 42
Fedorov on Need for Further Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Chernomyrdin Signs Decree on Small Businesses *[Radio Rossii]* 43
Chernomyrdin Decree on Debt Obligations With Former Union *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Government Urged To Give Regular 'Public Evaluation' *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 43
Reform Seen Gaining Ground Despite Government Efforts *[SEGODNYA 18 May]* 44
Central Bank To Introduce 50,000-Ruble Banknotes *[Moscow TV]* 44

Media & Military Issues

Press Ministry Panel Debates Application of Media Law *[IZVESTIYA 18 May]* 44
No Plans To Abolish Press, Media Ministry *[Moscow TV]* 45
Court Supports IZVESTIYA in Conflict With Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Minister Replies to Editor on Press Freedom Issues *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 May]* 45
Security Ministry Spokesman on Fighting 'Extremist' Forces *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 46
Ground Forces Chief Observes 'Combined-Arms Army' Exercises
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 May] 47
Defense Officials Evaluate Reform Progress *[Russian TV]* 47

Supreme Soviet

Clemency Asked for Russian Soldiers in Azerbaijan *[Moscow Radio]* 49
Supreme Soviet 14 May Plenary Session Held *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 May]* 49
Law on State Secrets Seen Infringing Human Rights *[SEGODNYA 18 May]* 50
WGF Commander Cited on Troop Withdrawal Decree *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 May]* 50
Defense Committee Airs Security, Stability Problems *[Moscow Radio]* 51
Seeks End to Political Strife *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Supreme Soviet Amends Law on Military Service *[ITAR-TASS]* 52

Regional Affairs

Chechen Opposition Forces Increase Activities *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Rayon Court Rejects Ministry Bid To Close Newspaper *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 18 May]* 53
Government Decree Backs Mordovian President, Administration
[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 May] 53
Mordovian President Issues Decree on Executive Power *[Radio Rossii]* 53
Ingush Vice President Praises Chernomyrdin Visit *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 14 May]* . 53
Lobov Presents Yeltsin Draft to Udmurtia *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 54
Further on Regional Conference on Constitution Draft *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 54
Sverdlovsk Official Views Constitutional Issues *[Moscow Radio]* 54
Regions Call for Constitutional Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Komi Leadership Calls For Single Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Altay Submits Proposal on Constitutional Commission *[Moscow Radio]* 55
Vice Premier Yarov Arrives in Bashkiria *[Russian TV]* 56
Stavropol Conference Favors Single Draft of Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 56
Discusses Federation Treaty *[Radio Rossii]* 56
Yeltsin-Nominated Candidate Elected Head of Primorye *[ITAR-TASS]* 56

UKRAINE

National Affairs

Kuchma Urges Parliament To Extend Emergency Powers *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Kuchma Warns of More Belt-Tightening *[PRAVDA 18 May]* 57
Plant Director Calls For Ending Nuclear Moratorium *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 15 May]* 59

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

12th Supreme Soviet Session Opens in Minsk *[Minsk Radio]* 61
Debates Agenda *[Minsk Radio]* 61

Moldova

Presidency Issues Communique on Snegur-Yeltsin Talks *[BASAPRESS]* 62
Foreign Minister Signs Cooperation Agreement With Greece *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
Parliament Condemns 'Illegal' Tiraspol Trial *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 63

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Interviewed on CIS Issues *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 May]* 64
Nazarbayev Congratulates New Turkish President *[Almaty Radio]* 66
Transportation Agreements Signed With Iran *[ITAR-TASS]* 66

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Arrives in Washington for Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
Prime Minister Satisfied With Results of CIS Meeting *[Moscow Radio]* 66
Prime Minister Views Introduction of Som, Ruble Zone *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 67
New Currency Said Complicating Economic, Social Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 67

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Afghan General Said Working Toward Buffer State
[NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA 14-20 May] 68
Official Calls For Expanding Cooperation With Iran *[Tehran IRNA]* 68

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Russian Foreign Ministry Appeals for Return of Servicemen *[Baku TV]* 69
Exchange of Soldiers for Prisoners *[Radio Rossii]* 69
Kulizade on Status of Kelbadzharskiy, Lachinskiy Rayons *[Baku Radio]* 69
Parliamentary Elections Held in Karabakh *[Yerevan International]* 69
Elchibey-Founded Monthly Begins Publication in Turkey *[Yerevan Radio]* 69

Georgia

Shevardnadze Addresses Parliament on Abkhazia *[Tbilisi Radio]* 69
Shevardnadze Spokesman Urges Abkhazians To Negotiate *[Tbilisi Radio]* 70
Abkhaz Premier Says Russian Officers Directing Fire on Sukhumi
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 18 May] 71
Meetings Discuss Timetable for Russian Troop Withdrawal *[Moscow Radio]* 71
Russian Troops To Take 'Tougher Measures' if Attacked *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 15 May]* . 71
Russian Seismic Lab To Be Dismantled After 20 May *[KOMMERSANT 18 May]* 72
Iran's Va'ezi Meets Chikvaidze, Hopes for End to Caucasus Crisis *[Tehran IRNA]* 72
Meets With Sigua *[Tehran IRNA]* 72
Agrees to Natural Gas Purchase, Oil Cooperation *[Tehran IRNA]* 73
Attacks Again Reported in South Ossetia *[Russian TV]* 73
Diplomatic Relations Established With Syria *[ITAR-TASS]* 73

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

President Discusses Security Concerns With Talbott *[Tallinn Radio]* 74
Meri, Laar Receive Swedish Defense Minister *[Tallinn Radio]* 74
Foreign Minister Reports on Relations With Russia *[BNS]* 74
Views Russian Protest on Border *[BNS]* 74

Latvia

Zotov Says Russians Offer To Withdraw Troops in 1994 *[BNS]* 75
No Agreement Reached *[Riga Radio]* 75
Parliament Adopts Resolution on Dismissal of Two Ministers *[Riga Radio]* 75
Deputies Present Draft Resolution of No Confidence in Godmanis *[Riga Radio]* 76

Lithuania

Delegations Discuss Agenda for Talks on Troop Withdrawal *[ITAR-TASS]* 76
Talks Viewed as 'Difficult' *[ITAR-TASS]* 76

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-096 *20 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chemical Weapons Disarmament Conference Opens *[Moscow TV]* 1
Details of Proceedings *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Funds Needed To Destroy Arms *[Moscow TV]* 1
Yeltsin Appeals for World Support *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 1
Lithuania Urges Latvian Induction Into Council of Europe *[BNS]* 2
United States Cuts Grain Exports To Former USSR *[ITAR-TASS]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Grachev Reaches Agreement With Lithuania on Troop Withdrawal 3
Troops To Pull Out By 31 Aug *[BNS]* 3
Political Agreement Not Yet Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Details of Agreement Noted *[Radio Rossii]* 4
Terms Policy as Nonaggressive *[Vilnius Radio]* 4
Estonia's Rebas Clarifies Reports on Troop Withdrawal Talks *[Tallinn Radio]* 4
Shaposhnikov Discusses Aligning Military Legislation *[Moscow Radio]* 5
CIS Collective Air Defense System Urged *[PRAVDA 18 May]* 6
CIS Commercial Banks Set Up High Speed Clearing Center *[Moscow TV]* 7
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 May Moscow Evening Papers 8
Press Review for 20 May 8

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev, Italy's Ciampi Discuss Yugoslavia, Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Briefed on Mostar Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Comments on Results of Talks *[Russian TV]* 10
Details Progress of Peace Process *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
'Let Down' by Clinton Doubts on Bosnia *[PRAVDA 20 May]* 11
Arrives in Washington *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Rutskoy Comments on Using Force in Yugoslavia *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 11
'Waning' U.S. Interest in Bosnia Seen *[PRAVDA 20 May]* 12
Russia Seen 'Seizing Initiative' on Bosnia, Vance-Owen *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 12
West Ignores Serb Objections to Vance-Owen Plan *[PRAVDA 19 May]* 13
Churkin Holds Talks in Vatican on Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Shumeyko Upbeat About U.S. Talks, Administration *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
U.S. Lack of Unanimity on Nuclear Test Moratorium Noted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 May]* 15
Commentary on Resuming Nuclear Testing *[Moscow International]* 15
Chernomyrdin Postpones Visit to Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Final Stage of Brigade Withdrawal in Cuba Continues *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
DPRK Retaliates for Demands for Nonproliferation Compliance *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 16
Sources Cited on Japan Document 'Leak' *[IZVESTIYA 19 May]* 16
Ministry Asks Azerbaijan To Spare Condemned Men *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 17
Greenpeace Protests at Atomic Energy Ministry *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Three Activists Detained *[Moscow TV]* 18
Commentator Deplores Russia's Loss of Influence in Mideast *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Khasbulatov, RSA Envoy Note Shared Reform Principles *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 19
Council of Europe Officials on Ties With Russia *[IZVESTIYA 19 May]* 19
Deputy Premier Fedorov Comments on IMF *[Moscow TV]* 20
Shokhin Briefs Press on IMF, EC *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 May]* 20

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets With Regional Administration Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Leaders Pledge Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Chernomyrdin, Others Speak at 'Anticrime' Commission *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Commission Stresses Fighting Crime *[Russian TV]* 22
Yeltsin Addresses Commission *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Paper Carries Correction to Constitution Draft *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 23
Yeltsin To Sign Constitutional Conference Decree *[Russian TV]* 23
Khasbulatov Calls For Legal Adoption of Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Rutskoy Stresses Search for 'National Concord' *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Khizha Under Investigation for Arms Smuggling *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Sobchak, Yavlinskiy, Volskiy To Set Up New Party *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 May]* 24
Parties, Unions Urge Yeltsin To Hold Constituent Assembly
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 May] 24
PRAVDA Denies Referendum Results Give Yeltsin Mandate *[19 May]* 25
Constitutional 'Battle' 'Endangering' Russian Unity *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 25
New Constitution Has 'Minefield' To Cross *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 26
Democrats Divided Over Procedures To Adopt Constitution *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 May]* . 28
Observer Comments on 'Constitutional Crisis' *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Paper Previews 5 Jun Constitutional Conference *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 May]* 29
New Border Law Welcomed; Concerns Expressed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 May]* 30
Popov Fears 'Complacency' Toward Hardliners *[IZVESTIYA 15 May]* 31

Economic Issues

Further on Industrialist, Government Conference *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 May]* 33
Fedorov Comments on Finance Ministry Reform Course *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 34
Central Bank Chairman on Inflation Control Measures *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 34
Government Dilemma on Budget Deficit Viewed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 18 May]* 35
Slowing of Overall Food Price Rises Registered *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 May]* 36
Concerns Voiced on 'Superministry's' Role *[IZVESTIYA 18 May]* 36

Military Issues

More on Grachev on Army Reform, Constitution *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 May]* 37
Supervision of Nuclear Shipment, Destruction Questioned *[Russian TV]* 38
Council for Defense, Foreign Policy Profiled *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 May]* 39
Commander Stresses Need for Contract Service *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 May]* 39
Constraints, Ineffective Programs Hamper Troop Transitions *[Russian TV]* 39
'Problems' of Resettling Returning Troops Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 40

Supreme Soviet

Ryabov Chooses 'All-Out Conflict' With Khasbulatov *[Moscow Radio]* 40
Hope From 'Forces of Reason' *[IZVESTIYA 18 May]* 40
Proceedings of 20 May Session Reported 41
Law on Weapons Adopted *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Report on Privatization *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Proposals on Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
IZVESTIYA Reports 14 May Deliberations *[15 May]* 42
Khasbulatov's Press Secretary on Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Khasbulatov Talks With Local Officials on Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Supreme Soviet Requests Ruling From Constitutional Court *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Economic Reform Commission Chairman Elected *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Paper Notes Former Affiliations of Media Aides *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 44
Supreme Soviet Asks Azerbaijan for Extradition *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 44

Regional Affairs

Chubays Visits Komi, Says Yeltsin Not To Dissolve Congress *[Moscow TV]* 45
Irkutsk Meeting Approves Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Tatarstan To Participate in Drafting Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Yarov Visits Ufa To Discuss Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 46
Lobov Visits Cheboksary To Discuss Draft Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 46
Shakhray Checks on Draft Constitution Work in Far East *[Khabarovsk Radio]* 46
Sobchak Urges Constituent Assembly To Adopt Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 46
Comments on Russian Presidency *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Regions View Moscow's Actions on Constitution *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 47
PRAVDA Cites Regional Hostility to Yeltsin Draft *[18 May]* 48
Report Finds Tuva Leaning Toward Independence *[SEGODNYA 18 May]* 48
'Differences of Approach' Lead to Khabarovsk Resignations *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 May]* 49
Ingush Congress Adopts Declaration on State Sovereignty *[Moscow Radio]* 49
Congress Appeals to Chechens To Resolve Crisis Peacefully *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Ural Leaders Propose Return to 'Guberniyas' *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 May]* 49
Soskovets To Talk With Urals Industry Chiefs *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 18 May]* 50
Resists Pleas for 'State Regulation' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 51
Group Sells Su-27's To Buy Color TV Production Line *[Radio Rossii]* 51
Arkhangelsk To Close Nuclear Submarine Town of Severodvinsk *[Russian TV]* 51

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk, Yeltsin To Discuss Black Sea Fleet in Jun *[UNIAR]* 52
Morozov Confirms 'Immutability' of Stance on Black Sea Fleet *[PRAVDA 19 May]* 52
Russian Commander on Black Sea Fleet's 'Dominant Position' *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Officials Refute OBSERVER Information on Arms Sales to Iran
[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 18 May] 52
Yugoslav Mediators Owen, Stoltenberg To Arrive in Kiev *[AFP]* 53
Government Denounces Bosnian Serb Referendum *[Kiev International]* 53
Foreign Ministry Protests Delays to Danube Shipping by Romania *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Greek-U.S. Inspectors To Monitor Compliance With Treaty *[Kiev International]* 54

National Affairs

Kuchma Asks To Resign at 20 May Parliament Session *[Kiev International]* 54
18 May Address on Economy *[Kiev International]* 55

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich Addresses Supreme Soviet 19 May *[Minsk Radio]* 63

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Russian Forces To Help Clear Border Town of 'Militants' *[ITAR-TASS]* 65
Prime Minister Views Flood Damage, Border Situation *[PRAVDA 18 May]* 65
UN Special Envoy Visits, Discusses Refugee Problem *[ITAR-TASS]* 65

Turkmenistan

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Visits, Talks With Niyazov *[Moscow Radio]* 66

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Top Georgian Leaders Arrive To Sign Friendship Accord *[Tbilisi Radio]* 67
Friendship Treaty Signed *[Moscow Radio]* 67
Shevardnadze Suggests Caucasian Peacemaking Mission *[Russian TV]* 67
Russia To Ensure Gas Supplies *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 68
Government To Respond to Peace Plan 26 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 68
Students Demonstrate Against Turkey *[Moscow Radio]* 68

Azerbaijan

Baku Reportedly Not To Join CIS Economic Zone *[TURAN]* 68
Agreement Between Nakhichevan, Armenia Called 'Betrayal' *[ASSA-IRADA]* 69
Nagorno-Karabakh Opposed to Turkey as Mediator *[Moscow Radio]* 69
Kulizade Welcomes Schedule for Ending Conflict *[Baku TV]* 69
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia *[Baku Radio]* 69
Guseynov, Iranian Ambassador Discuss Cooperation *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Kamberov Rejects Holding Special Supreme Soviet Session *[TURAN]* 69
Elchibey Congratulates National Assembly on Anniversary *[Baku Radio]* 70

Georgia

Government Orders Troops To Cease Fire 20 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Abkhazian Leader Orders Troops To Cease Fire *[Moscow TV]* 70
Both Sides Observing Cease-Fire *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Shevardnadze Statement on Cease-Fire *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Yeltsin Representatives Meet With Abkhaz Officials *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Defense Minister Sets Up 1st Army Corps *[Moscow Radio]* 72
Shevardnadze Meets With Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister *[Tbilisi Radio]* 72

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-097 *21 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS Armed Forces Spokesman Calls For CIS Peacemaking Force *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Commentary Rejects Shaposhnikov Unified Force Idea *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 19 May]* 1
Grachev Meets Baltic Leaders on Troop Withdrawal 2
Notes Problems With Latvia, Estonia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 May]* 2
'Stalemate' Seen in Talks *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 May]* 3
'Realism' Seen Promoting CIS Integration Trends *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 18 May]* 3
Belarus Arms Deliveries Seen Perpetuating Tajik Conflict *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 23 May]* 5
Georgian Espionage, Terrorist Ring Uncovered in Ukraine *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 6

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev: 'Complete Understanding' in Talks With Christopher *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Christopher's Push for 'Consultations' on Bosnia Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 7
U.S. 'U-Turn' on Bosnia Puts Russia's Policy 'Back at Square One' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 7
West Accused of 'Double Standards' in Bosnia *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 20 May]* 8
NATO Said Planning Force To Counter Serb Rejection of Peace Plan *[PRAVDA 21 May]* 9
Kozyrev Visit to Belgrade Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 9
Shumeyko Heads Delegation to Cuba *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Says Economic Accords 'Not Working' *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
German Economics Minister Arrives in Moscow *[Berlin ADN]* 11
Begins Talks *[Berlin ADN]* 11
Meets Chernomyrdin *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Yeltsin Addresses Message to World Forum of Young Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Yeltsin Requests Elchibey's Clemency for Russian POW's *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 19 May]* 12
Academy of Sciences Appeals for Soldiers' Release *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Western 'Dual Standards' in Baltics Criticized *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 23 May]* 13
Polish Vice Premier Notes 'No Rapprochement' on Debts *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 14
Russian Naval Flag Hoisted on Several Black Sea Navy Ships *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Commentary Views Differences With Ukraine *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 20 May]* 14
Talks With Moldova on Russian Troop Withdrawal End *[Radio Rossii]* 15
Japanese Press 'Assertions' Deemed 'Utter Fable' *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Iranian Majles Committee Human Rights Role Viewed *[Moscow International]* 16
Ministry Warned Against 'Kowtowing' to U.S. in Middle East *[SEGODNYA 21 May]* 16
ANC Official Interviewed Before Departure for Moscow *[Moscow TV]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

'Text' of Yeltsin Decree on Constitutional Assembly *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Democrats Urge Yeltsin To Name Gaydar, Makarov *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 May]* 18
Yeltsin Said To Agree on Lobov *[SEGODNYA 21 May]* 19
Rutskoy, Centrist Forces Meet on Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 19
To Form Electoral Commission *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Yushenkov Discloses Deputies' Plan To Block Congress *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Skokov Dismissal Removed 'Sobering Influence' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 20
Kostikov Comments on Khasbulatov, Rutskoy *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 21
Sergeyev Named Government Press Bureau Chief *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 May]* 22
Official on Investigations Into Rutskoy's Allegations *[Moscow TV]* 22

Democratic Russia Supports Constitutional Conference *[Radio Rossii]* 22
Further on 19 May Meeting of Anticrime Commission *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 May]* 23
Filatov on Constitutional Conference Hopes *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 23
Filatov: Lobov View Sounds 'Alarm Signals' *[IZVESTIYA 19 May]* 24
Yeltsin Draft Constitution Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 May]* 25
Shakhray, Baburin on Draft Constitution *[FEDERATSIYA 20 May]* 26
Faction Coordinators Assess Political Crisis *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 27

Media Issues

Court Hears Case on Congress Freedom of Speech Rule *[Russian TV]* 28
Plotnikov Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Constitutional Court Ruling on IZVESTIYA Published *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 29
Implications of Verdict Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 30
Editor Hits Poltoranin Over Plan To Control Media *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 20 May]* 30
Confidentiality Order Risks Increase of Information Leaks *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 May]* 31
Rutskoy TV Appearance Request Turned Down *[SEGODNYA 21 May]* 32

Economic Issues

Rutskoy on Economic Developments, State Role *[Russian TV]* 32
Fedorov: Economic Policy Being Drafted for IMF *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Fedorov Denies Seeking Chairmanship of Central Bank *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 37
Foreign Trade Turnover Examined *[ITAR-TASS]* 37

Supreme Soviet

Alternative Offered to Constitutional Conference *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 37
'Substantially' Restructuring Leadership Viewed *[SEGODNYA 21 May]* 37
Decrees on Opinions on Constitution Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 38
Commission Official on Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Leaders Close To 'Compromise' With Yeltsin *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 20 May]* 39
Inactivity Results as Deputies 'Ponder' Future *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 40
Khasbulatov Suggests Lowering Taxes *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Further on 19 May Parliament Session *[Russian TV]* 40
New Reform Board To Be Tougher on Privatization *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 May]* 41
More on Defense, Security Committee Press Conference *[IZVESTIYA 19 May]* 41
Defense Official: Army on 'Survival' Footing *[Russian TV]* 42
Defense Committee's Stepashin Interviewed *[SEGODNYA 18 May]* 42

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Ulyanovsk on Regional Tour *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Visits Aircraft Plant *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Supports Yeltsin Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Officials React to Yeltsin Draft Constitution 46
Lobov Fails To Get Backing in Udmurtia *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 19 May]* 46
Shakhray Sums Up Provincial Opinions *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Bashkir Parliament Criticizes Draft *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 May]* 47
Far Eastern Representatives Voice Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Mordovian Conference Says Draft 'Acceptable' *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Regional Reaction Viewed *[SEGODNYA 21 May]* 48
Chechen President Attends Islamic Meeting in Beirut *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Islamic Youth 'Terrorist' Organization Formed in Chechnya *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 23 May]* 49
Yeltsin Believed To Have Recognized Tatar Sovereignty *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 49
Tatarstan Signs Agreements With St. Petersburg *[ITAR-TASS]* 50

UKRAINE

National Affairs

Deputies Vote Against Kuchma Resignation *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Kravckuk Addresses Parliament 20 May *[Kiev International]* 51
'Trenchant' Kuchma Speech Goes Unheeded *[PRAVDA 20 May]* 58
Crimean Supreme Soviet Appoints New Prime Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 59

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich, Kravchanka Meet Lord Owen, Stoltenberg *[Minsk Radio]* 60
Supreme Soviet Discusses Citizenship, National Language *[Minsk Radio]* 60

Moldova

Snegur Calls For Compromise With Gagauz, Dniester Regions *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Parliament Head Accuses Legislative Power of 'Apathy' *[BASAPRESS]* 61

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Work Starts on Kazakh-U.S. Mutual Security Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Delegation Leader to CIS Talks Holds News Conference *[Almaty Radio]* 62

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Meets With Clinton, Gore During U.S. Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Meets With Lloyd Bentsen *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Chingyshev Settles Gas Dispute With Uzbekistan *[KYRGYZKABAR]* 63

Tajikistan

Abdullodzhanov on Efforts To Overcome Economic Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 63

Uzbekistan

Government Lifts Sanctions Against Kyrgyzstan *[Radio Rossii]* 63
European Bank To Grant Loan of 100 Billion ECU *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 18 May]* 64

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Turkey's Role in Tripartite Plan Criticized *[Yerevan International]* 65
Iranian Delegation Visits, Stresses Closer Ties *[Yerevan Radio]* 65
Presidential Aide on Hopes for CIS Development *[PRAVDA 20 May]* 65

Georgia

Shevardnadze Addresses Parliament on Cease-Fire, Security *[Tbilisi Radio]* 66
Shevardnadze Snubs Critics, Favors Closer Russian Ties *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 May]* ... 66
Nadareishvili, Russia's Pastukhov Hold Talks *[Tbilisi Radio]* 67
UN Envoy Arrives for Abkhazia Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Treaties Signed With Armenia Detailed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 68
Prospects for Georgian-Armenian Relations Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 68

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Velliste Says Russia Continues To Violate Sovereignty *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 69
Diplomatic Relations Established With Syria *[Tallinn Radio]* 69
Defense Minister Replaces Defense Ministry Chancellor *[BNS]* 69

Latvia

Talks on Russian Troop Withdrawal Continue in Jurmala *[Riga Radio]* 69
Troops Could Leave in 5-10 Years *[BNS]* 70
'Minor Disagreements' on Strategic Facilities *[BNS]* 70
IAEA Experts Arrive To Inspect Salaspils Nuclear Reactor *[BNS]* 70
Germany's Suessmuth Says Riga To Enter European Council *[LETA]* 71
Parliament Accepts Finance, Justice Ministers Resignations *[BNS]* 71

Lithuania

Brazauskas Outlines Foreign Policy Aims *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Brazauskas Hails Induction Into Council of Europe *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 71
Lithuanian-Russian Talks End Without 'Desired Results' *[Vilnius International]* 72
Defense Minister on Talks With Russia, Prospects *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
Grachev Says Russia Withdrawing Troops on Schedule *[BNS]* 73
Landsbergis Elected Chairman of New Conservative Party *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 4 May]* 73

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-097-A *21 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs
Spokesman Comments on Kozyrev's Washington Visit *[INTERFAX]* 1
Yeltsin Meets With Japan's Nakasone 18 May *[Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN 19 May]* 1
Nakasone Quoted on Visit *[INTERFAX]* 2
Further on Nakasone Comments *[INTERFAX]* 2
Relations Between Moscow, Pyongyang 'Cooled' *[INTERFAX]* 3
Moscow Favors UN Discussion of Yugoslav Issue *[INTERFAX]* 3
Spokesman Raps Hungarian Politicians on Yugoslav Statements *[INTERFAX]* 3
No Plan To Delay Troop Withdrawal From Lithuania *[INTERFAX]* 4

Russia National Affairs
Yeltsin Sees No Role for Gaydar in Present Government *[INTERFAX]* 4
Yeltsin Aide: Khasbulatov 'Rather Nervous Lately' *[INTERFAX]* 4
Commission Says May Day Events Result of 'Provocations' *[INTERFAX]* 5
Chubays: Government, Congress Pursue Different Policies *[INTERFAX]* 5
Yeltsin Aide on Government, Congress Personalities *[INTERFAX]* 5
Officials Comment on Status of New Constitution 6
Shakhray on Options *[INTERFAX]* 6
Rutskoy on 'Dictatorship' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Isakov on Referendum, Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 7
Constitution To Cause 'Conflicts' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Khasbulatov Cited on Draft *[INTERFAX]* 8
Presidential Council Member Comments *[INTERFAX]* 8
Court Official Supports Draft *[INTERFAX]* 8
Official Comments on Adopting Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 9
Shakhray, Stankevich Comment *[INTERFAX]* 9

Russia Supreme Soviet
Khasbulatov Denies Split in Parliamentary Leadership *[INTERFAX]* 9
Parliament Speaker on Presidential Official's Remarks *[INTERFAX]* 10
Supreme Soviet Postpones Resolution on New Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 10
Sokolov on Khasbulatov's Tax Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 10
Fedorov Criticizes Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 11

Russia Regional Affairs
Yeltsin's Draft Constitution Backed by Six Volga Regions *[RIA]* 11
Yeltsin To Consult With Regions on Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 11
Groznyy Official Warns of Chechen 'Physical Confrontation' *[INTERFAX]* 12
Kalmyk President Proposes Own Draft Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 12
Hostilities Between Ingush, Ossetians Continue *[INTERFAX]* 12

Ukraine
Majority of Cabinet Submits Resignations *[INTERFAX]* 13
Bill Handed to Deputies States President Heads Cabinet *[INTERFAX]* 13

Belarus
Minsk Prepared To Deliver Arms to Tajikistan *[INTERFAX]* 13

Tajikistan
Troops Defeat 'Infiltrators' From Afghanistan *[INTERFAX]* 14

Estonia
Grachev Rejects 'Army of Occupation' Term *[BALTFAX]* 14

VIDEO SELECTION LIST
Video Tapes Available From FBIS TV Center 15

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-098 *24 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

First International Conference on Chemical Disarmament Ends *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Russian Official on Need for Legislation *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Turkey Accused of Violating UN Resolution in Nagorno-Karabakh *[AFP]* 1
Envoy Submits Revised Karabakh Peace Plan to Armenians *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 2
International Disaster Prevention Conference Held 2
Civil Defense Cooperation Pledged *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 2
Russia Proposes Role *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
PRAVDA on Ryabov's Backing for Constituent Assembly *[18 May]* 3

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Interparliamentary Assembly Held in St. Petersburg 4
Assembly To Discuss Azerbaijan *[Radio Rossii]* 4
Khasbulatov Says Ties Being Restored *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Republics Integrating Into Commonwealth *[Moscow TV]* 4
Leaders Comment on Results *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Khasbulatov Outlines Results *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Grachev Reaches Three Agreements With Baltics *[Moscow TV]* 6
Beskaravainyy Named Commander of Black Sea Fleet *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Black Sea Officers Call For Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting *[Kiev International]* 6
Remarks on CIS States Merging Into Russia Denied *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
New Coordinating Committee's Work Described *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Baltic, Nordic Officials Discuss Narcotics Control *[BNS]* 7
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 May 7

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev Continues U.S. Visit, Meets Officials 9
Meets Clinton, Lake, Christopher *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Comments on Bosnian Settlement Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
'Very Well Satisfied' With Clinton Talks *[Moscow Radio]* 9
Talks With Christopher Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 22 May]* 10
Arrives in New York, Confers on Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Meets With Butrus-Ghali *[Moscow Radio]* 10
Meets With Other Foreign Ministers *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Commentary Views U.S. 'Small-Minded' Acts *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Comments on Participation in Peace Plan *[Moscow TV]* 12
Ends Visit to U.S. *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Details Results of Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Says Muslim Rejection 'Unacceptable' *[AFP]* 13
Comments on Washington Bosnia Deal *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Rutskoy Says Russia 'Thoroughly Submissive' to U.S. *[Tehran IRNA]* 14
TV Notes U.S. Protest Over PRAVDA Article *[Moscow TV]* 14
Trade Union Leader Charges AFL-CIO With Interference *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 21 May]* 14
End of SDI Program Noted; Costs Said 'All in Vain' *[Moscow International]* 15
Commentary Welcomes U.S. Recognition of Angolan Government *[Moscow International]* 15
Shumeyko, Cuba's Soto Positively Assess Russo-Cuban Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Joint Memorandum Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Shumeyko Returns to Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
ANC Sees No Problems in Relations With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 17

ANC's Mbeki, Modise Meet Officials *[Moscow International]* 17
Commentary Views Visit *[Moscow International]* 17
Spokesman Blasts UNITA's Approach in Angola *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Khasbulatov Addresses 'Arab World' Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Rutskoy on Ties With 'Arab World' *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Conference Ends; Final Document Issued *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
'Scandal' Surrounding Chechen Leader's Lebanese Visit Grows *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Yeltsin Approves Draft Friendship Treaty With Tajikistan *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Chernomyrdin Cancels Kiev Trip Because of Kuchma *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 May]* 20
Ukrainian Moves on Black Sea Fleet Deplored *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 May]* 21
Khasbulatov Appeals to Azeri Leaders Over Russian POWs *[Radio Rossii]* 22
Grachev Addresses News Conference on Lithuania Withdrawal *[Moscow TV]* 22
Moscow-Vilnius Talks Stall Over Damages Issue *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 22
Spokesman Says Russia Supports UN Stance on Cambodia *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Japanese Approach to Nuclear Dumping Problem 'Constructive' *[IZVESTIYA 13 May]* 23
Industrialists Hope To Restore Trade Links With East Europe *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 May]* 24

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Constitution Issues

Shakhray Views Deputies' Role in Drafting Constitution *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Shakhray Says President's Draft Supported by Regions *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Shakhray Sells Constitution in Far East *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 26
Rumyantsev Comments on Presidential Draft *[Russian TV]* 27
West Siberian Region Backs Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
North Caucasus Leaders Urged To Pool Efforts on Constitution
[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May] 28
Tatarstan President on Review of Constitution *[Moscow TV]* 28
North Ossetian Parliament Speaker on Russian Constitution *[FEDERATSIYA 22 May]* 29
Republican Party Notes Flaws in Draft Constitutions *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 May]* 30
Officials Offer Opinions on Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Trade Union Chairman on Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Article Examines Constitutional Process *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 May]* 31

Political Issues

Rutskoy Outlines Stance of Centrist Forces *[Moscow TV]* 32
Presidential Aide Urges Congress To Dissolve Itself *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 34
Chernomyrdin Departs for 12-Day Vacation in Sochi *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Kozyrev Article Views Human Rights, Sakharov Legacy *[IZVESTIYA 22 May]* 35

Military & Space Issues

Shokhin To Chair Military Technical Cooperation Committee *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Khizha Denies Involvement in Missile Smuggling Case *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 May]* 37
Kokoshin Comments on Defense Conversion Prospects *[DELOVIE LYUDI Apr]* 38
Defense Industries Committee Head on Arms Sales, Conversion *[DELOVIE LYUDI Apr]* 39
Tor Air Defense Missile Complex Described *[IZVESTIYA 19 May]* 40
'Military Review' Interviews Grachev, Others *[Moscow TV]* 41
'Red Square' Program on Defense Issues *[Moscow TV]* 42
Details of Voskhod '93 Air Exercises Reported *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 May]* 44
'Progress M-18' Space Cargo Vessel Launched 22 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Plesetsk Launches New Satellite 21 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

Supreme Soviet

Abdulatipov Article on Breaking Constitution Impasse *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 45
Abdulatipov Interviewed on Draft Constitutions *[Russian TV]* 47
Abdulatipov Comments on Caucasus, General Situation *[Russian TV]* 48
Abdulatipov Advances Case for State's 'Evolution' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 49

Khasbulatov Deflects Discussion on Alternative Draft *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 May]* 50
Khasbulatov Addresses 30,000 in Telephone Conference *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 51
Parliament Session Not Held for Lack of Quorum *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Supreme Soviet Passes Law on Customs Tariffs *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Committee Aide: Parliament Entitled To Discuss Stepankov
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 May] 52
Parliament Adopts Pension Law for Servicemen's Parents *[Radio Rossii]* 52
Supreme Soviet Allows Travkin To Retire *[Moscow TV]* 53

Regional Affairs

Ingush 'National Extremists' Declare 'Holy War' on Russia *[Moscow Radio]* 53
Chechnya Plans To Recruit Its Own Army *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
New Chechen Premier Blames Dudayev for Republican Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Chechnya Restores Financial Relations With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Chechen Cabinet Sworn In; Dudayev To Name 'Power' Ministers
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 May] 54
Chechnya's Dudayev Confers With Military *[ITAR-TASS]* 55

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Zlenko, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Relations *[Kiev International]* 56
Cabinet Issues Instructions on Yugoslavia Sanctions *[Kiev International]* 56
Kravchuk, Polish President Begin Meetings *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Walesa Predicts No Major Boost in Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Kravchuk Seeks 'Solid' Arab Ties, Peace Process Role *[Amman TV]* 57
Cuban Ambassador Interviewed on Ties *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 15 May]* 57
State Committee for Economic Cooperation With CIS Formed *[Kiev International]* 58

National Affairs

Deputies Vote for 'De Jure' Nuclear Status *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 May]* 58
Zaporozhskaya AES Explosion Kills One; No Radiation Leakage *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Situation Returns to 'Normal' *[Kiev International]* 59
Kuchma, Kravchuk Address Parliament 21 May *[Kiev International]* 59
Cabinet Meets, Prepares Reform Legislation *[Kiev International]* 60
New Anti-Submarine Ship Launched *[Kiev International]* 61

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

Negotiations on 14th Army Withdrawal Continue 62
Smirnov's Adviser Assesses Talks *[BASAPRESS]* 62
Government Proposes Date, Terms *[BASAPRESS]* 62
Snegur Discusses New Approach to Dniester, Gagauz *[BASAPRESS]* 62
Snegur Urges Butrus-Ghali To Intervene in Tiraspol Trial *[BASAPRESS]* 63

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Stresses Intra-CIS Cooperation *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 May]* 64

Tajikistan

Foreign Minister on Incorporation Into Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
First Humanitarian Aid Consignment Received From Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Security Chief: Armed Opposition 'Doomed to Failure' *[ITAR-TASS]* 67

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Indian Prime Minister Rao Hold Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Agree To Expand Ties *[Delhi International]* 67
Express Concern Over Fundamentalism *[Delhi International]* 68

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Kamberov Suggests Joint Body To Study Sentenced Russians *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
Further on Kamberov Reply *[TURAN]* 69
General Procuracy Maintains Guilt of Russian Servicemen *[Baku TV]* 69
Prime Minister Guseynov Leaves for UK *[Baku Radio]* 70

Georgia

Shevardnadze, UN Envoy on Abkhaz-Georgian Conflict *[Radio Rossii]* 70
UN Envoy Visits Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Nadareishvili Proposes Abkhaz Peace Plan to Ardzinba *[Russian TV]* 70
Meets Yeltsin's Personal Envoy *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Yeltsin Envoy Meets Parliament Official *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Abkhazia Accuses Georgia of Cease-Fire Violations *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Abkhaz Defense Council Chairman Meets U.S. Military Attache *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Denial of Preparations To Invade South Ossetia *[Tbilisi Radio]* 72
'Armed Groups' Become Active Pre-Independence Day *[Moscow Radio]* 72

BALTIC STATES

Lithuania

Armed Forces To Be Armed With Russian Weapons *[Vilnius Radio]* 73
Defense Minister Sees Trade Opportunities With Russia *[Russian TV]* 73
Russian Official on Status of Troop Withdrawal *[Vilnius Radio]* 73
Landsbergis News Conference Discusses Russian Withdrawal *[Vilnius Radio]* 73
German Envoy Interviewed on Ties, Aid *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 7 May]* 73

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-099 *25 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Black Sea Fleet Calls For Yeltsin, Kravchuk Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Morozov Condemns Black Sea Fleet; Grachev Plays Down Unrest *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 1
Baltic States Sign Agreement on Free Medical Aid *[BNS]* 2
Private Farming Expanding Despite Problems *[IZVESTIYA 22 May]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 May 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kozyrev on National Interests at Stake in Balkan Dispute *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Kozyrev Sees 'New Accents' in Search for Bosnia Settlement *[Moscow TV]* 5
Kozyrev's Mission to Europe, U.S. Assessed *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 5
Efforts on Yugoslavia Applauded; U.S. Faulted on Kozyrev *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 6
Churkin Arrives in Belgrade for Talks With Yugoslav Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Commentary Says New Efforts Needed on Yugoslav Issue *[Moscow Radio]* 7
'Joint Action Program' on Yugoslavia Analyzed *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 8
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Views New U.S. Ambassador *[22 May]* 8
Armenia's Ter-Petrosyan Meets With Yeltsin, Comments *[Radio Rossii]* 10
Yeltsin To Meet Armenia's Ter-Petrosyan 25 May *[Moscow TV]* 10
Military Procurator Criticizes Azeri Court *[Radio Rossii]* 10
Pastukhov Says UN, CSCE Aid Needed To End Abkhaz War *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Yeltsin Envoy Cited on Abkhazia Cease-Fire *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 May]* 11
Tajik Delegation Arrives in Moscow; Treaties To Be Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Ubaydullayev Previews Friendship Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Rakhmonov Comments *[Radio Rossii]* 12
Government To Send Aid to Tajikistan *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Russian, Kazakh Leaders Conference Opens in Omsk *[Moscow TV]* 12
Border Force in Kazakhstan May 'Fall Apart' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 May]* 12
Soskovets on Integration of Kazakh, Russian Economies *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
General Prosecutor Signs Cooperation Agreement With Ukraine *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 25 May]* 14
Results of Grachev's Lithuania Trip Noted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 May]* 14
General Protests to Latvia, Estonia Over Detentions *[Russian TV]* 15
Yeltsin Greets African Leaders on Liberation Day *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Security Minister Barannikov Departs for Germany *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Shokhin Cited on Trade Talks in London *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 16
Shokhin Reports British-Russian Credit Agreement Reached *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Defense Enterprises Open Exhibition in UK *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Yarov Delegation Arrives in Hanoi *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Defense Industry Signs Cooperation Accord With ROK *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Article Views NATO's Offer of Cooperation, Not Integration *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 May]* 18

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Constitutional Issues

Filatov Briefs Press on Constitutional Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 20
Outlines Procedures for Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Further on News Conference *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 21
Constitution Conference 'Last Chance' To End Crisis *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 22
Parliament Center Chief Promotes Shakhray's Constitution *[FEDERATSIYA 25 May]* 23
Prospects for Constitutional Conference Pondered *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 25 May]* 23

Constitutional Court's Zorkin Interviewed *[FEDERATSIYA 25 May]* 24
Correction to Yeltsin Constitutional Decree 26

Political Issues

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Public Meetings *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Interior Ministry Meeting Views Current Problems *[Russian TV]* 26
Government Leaders' Activities Detailed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 May]* 26
Civic Union's Yermakov Rejects 'Extremes' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 27
Centrists Move To Unite All Opposed to 'Radicalism' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 28
West Urges Yeltsin Toward 'Authoritarian Regime' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 29
Republican Party Headquarters Burned Down *[ITAR-TASS]* 30

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin, Central Bank President on Economic Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Joint Statement Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Fedorov Calls Agreement 'Historic' *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Chubays Questioned on Privatization Issues *[Russian TV]* 32
Yeltsin Decree Amends Retail Oil Prices *[Radio Rossii]* 33
Lifting of Oil Price Restrictions Welcomed *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Money Circulation Figures for First Quarter Released *[ITAR-TASS]* 33

Media Issues

Chernomyrdin Signs Decree Supporting Press Ministry *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Constitutional Court Hits Media 'Pressure' Over May Day *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* .. 34
Congress Media Resolution 'In Line With' Constitution *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 25 May]* 34
New Statute Updates Media Ministry's Functions *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 25 May]* 34

Military Issues

More Black Sea Fleet Ships Join Russian Navy *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Arms Export Officials Concerned by Falling Sales *[Moscow TV]* 35
Grachev Interviewed on Army Reform *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 35
Servicemen on Contract Mainly Rural Workers *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 25 May]* 37

Supreme Soviet

May Day Investigation Proceeds in 'Utmost Secrecy' *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Presidium Discusses Statistics, Elections *[Moscow TV]* 38
Parliament To Decide 2 Jun on Constitutional Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 38
'Special Deputies' Commission' Established *[ITAR-TASS]* 38

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov Arrives in Pskov for 'Working Visit' *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Visits Converted Missile Base *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Says Soviets Cannot Be Dissolved *[Russian TV]* 39
Chernomyrdin Visits Ulyanovsk, Notes 'Tough' Economic Measures *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Returns to Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Chechen People Urged To Protect Constitutional System *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Dudayev's Nephew Killed in Shooting Incident *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Law Enforcement Bodies Consolidate in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Chechen Opposition Affirms Intention To Hold Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Situation in North Ossetia, Ingushetia Under Control *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Tensions Rise in Dagestan Area During State of Emergency *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Vladivostok Could Be 'Closed' Again To Keep Out Criminals
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 May] 41
General: No Plans To Increase Kaliningrad Troop Numbers *[Moscow TV]* 42
Rostov Prosecutor Protests Representative's Suspension *[ITAR-TASS]* 42

Volgograd Authorities Oppose Yeltsin Draft *[IZVESTIYA 22 May]* 42
Krasnoyarsk Local Constitution Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 44
Privatization in Kalmykia Temporarily Suspended *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Jewish Oblast Oil Reserves Estimated at 100 Million Tonnes *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Further on Polish President Walesa's Visit *[UKRINFORM]* 46
Official Alerts Government to Plight of Mercenaries *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 21 May]* 46

CENTRAL ASIA

Turkmenistan

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Concludes Visit *[KAZTAG]* 48
Views Economic Integration *[KAZTAG]* 48
Niyazov To Visit France 26-28 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Uzbekistan

Further on Indian Prime Minister's Visit *[Delhi International]* 49
More on Agreements, Treaty *[Delhi International]* 49

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Government Announces Cease-Fire Until 29 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Aliyev: Only President Can Decide Russian Soldiers' Fate *[Radio Rossii]* 50
General Procuracy Maintains Guilt of Russian Servicemen *[Baku TV]* 50
Elchibey's Rival Reportedly Asks Iran for Asylum *[Tehran IRNA]* 51
New Presidential Counselor Interviewed *[TURAN]* 51

Georgia

Shevardnadze Calls For 'One-Month Peace Break' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 51
Shevardnadze Reorganizes Defense Ministry *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Shevardnadze Upset Over Pro-Gamsakhurdia Rally *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Commission Starts Work To Coordinate Russian Troop Withdrawal *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 May]* 52
Russia Demands Release of Arrested Officer *[Radio Rossii]* 52
Defense Minister Returns From Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Abkhazians Claim New Troops Moved in Under Cease-Fire *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Abashidze Heads Delegation Visit to London *[Tbilisi Radio]* 53

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Purchase of Israeli Missile Systems Kept 'Secret' *[BNS BALTIC BUSINESS WEEKLY]* 54
New Weapons Demonstrated *[Tallinn Radio]* 54
Laar Receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister *[Tallinn Radio]* 54
Laar Receives Russian Naval Deputy Commander *[BNS]* 54
Foreign Minister Meets Italian Counterpart in Rome *[BNS]* 55

Latvia

Three Intergovernmental Accords Signed With Russia *[BNS]* 55
Zotov Views Results of Latest Russo-Latvian Talks *[BNS]* 55

Defense Minister Comments on Visit to Italy *[Riga Radio]* 56

Lithuania

Landsbergis Notes 'Deviations' in Russian Troop Withdrawal *[BNS]* 56
Russia Cuts Natural Gas Supply by Half *[BNS]* 57
Swedish Defense Minister Pays Courtesy Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 57

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-099-A *25 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

Kozyrev Says Izetbegovic 'Did Approve' Initiatives *[INTERFAX]* 1
Claims Izetbegovic Changed Position *[INTERFAX]* 1
Churkin Arrives in Belgrade for Talks *[RIA]* 1
Yeltsin, Armenia's Ter-Petrosyan to Meet 26 May *[INTERFAX]* 2
Tajik Leader Arrives in Moscow, To Sign Documents *[INTERFAX]* 2
Barannikov Leads Security Ministry Delegation to Germany *[INTERFAX]* 2
Military Leaders Said Skeptical of START-II's Effectiveness *[INTERFAX]* 2
Vice Premier Reports 'Serious Controversy' on EC Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 3

Russia National Affairs

'Very Tired' Yeltsin Hints He May Quit *[London THE SUNDAY TIMES 23 May]* 3
Yeltsin Signs Decree Lifting Price Limits for Oil Products *[INTERFAX]* 4
Government Considers Increase in Oil Exports *[INTERFAX]* 4
Yeltsin Issues Decree on Demonstrations in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 4
Further on Decree *[RIA]* 5
Legislator Criticizes Counterparts on Constitutional Stance *[INTERFAX]* 5
Presidium Approves Central Bank Policy for '93 *[INTERFAX]* 5
Nuclear Submarine Completed in Severodvinsk *[INTERFAX]* 6

Russia Regional Affairs

North Ossetian Parliament May Extend State of Emergency *[INTERFAX]* 6
Tatarstan To Resume Talks on Delimitation of Powers *[INTERFAX]* 6
Tatarstan Parliament Discusses Draft Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 6
Opposition Claims Dudayev Not Supported by Population *[INTERFAX]* 7

Ukraine

Agreements With Poland Signed in Kiev *[INTERFAX]* 7
Further on Documents *[INTERFAX]* 7
Further on Claims of Troop Infiltration Into Sukhumi *[INTERFAX]* 8
Demonstrators in Sevastopol Demand Russian Jurisdiction *[INTERFAX]* 8
Legislator Suggests UN Condemnation of Totalitarianism *[INTERFAX]* 8
Unconfirmed Reports of Changes in Naval Leadership *[INTERFAX]* 9

Belarus

Friction Between Parliament Speaker, Foreign Minister Noted *[INTERFAX]* 9

Moldova

Clinton Asked To Help Return Residents to Chisinau *[INTERFAX]* 9
Parliament Deputy Chairman Discusses Draft Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 9

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Discusses Ties With India's Rao *[INTERFAX]* 10

Armenia

Prime Minister To Fly to Paris for Aid Conference *[INTERFAX]* 10

Azerbaijan

Government Pledges To Ensure Cease-Fire Until 29 May *[INTERFAX]* 11
Russia Completes Withdrawl of Armed Forces From Country *[INTERFAX]* 11

Estonia

Israeli Arms To Compose 'Bulk' of Armed Forces Weaponry *[BALTFAX]* 11
Russian Parliament Speaker Continues Tour of Country *[BALTFAX]* 11
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[BALTFAX]* 12
Exchanges Views With Leadership *[RIA]* 12

Latvia

Russian Commander Protests Detainment of Officer *[BALTFAX]* 12
Earlier BALTFAX Report Called 'Disinformation' *[BALTFAX]* 12

Lithuania

Russian Arms To Compose 'Backbone' of Army's Weaponry *[BALTFAX]* 13
Russian Gas Supplies Reduced by Half Due To Nonpayments *[BALTFAX]* 13
Official Accuses Russia of 'Insidious Tactics' *[BALTFAX]* 13
Swedish Defense Minister Arrives for 'Short Visit' *[BALTFAX]* 13
President Discusses Domestic, Foreign Policy *[BALTFAX]* 14
Bank Official Says Currency Measures Stabilizing Economy *[BALTFAX]* 14

VIDEO COMPILATION LIST

Video Tapes Available From FBIS TV Center 14

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-100 *26 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rutskoy Attends Religious Forum, Seeks Pan-Yugoslav Talks *[Moscow TV]* 1
Paris Meeting Views Belarus Financial Status *[Minsk International]* 1
Experts Discuss Chemical Weapon Disposal Problems, Solutions *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 May]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Ukranian Defense Ministry Denies Reports on Navy Head's Dismissal *[Radio Rossii]* 2
Russian Troop Withdrawal From Baltics Reported *[BNS]* 2
Khasbulatov Views Commonwealth Economic Role *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 2
Border Guard Commanders Confer in Moscow *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 3
Ivashov Says CIS Recognizes Need for Collective Security *[Moscow International]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 May 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Churkin Visits Belgrade, Comments on Latest Peace Initiative *[Moscow TV]* 5
Sums Up Visit to Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Says Bosnia Serbs Get Supplies From FRY *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 May]* 6
Further on Meeting With Opposition *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 6
Comments on Results of Negotiations *[Moscow International]* 6
Yugoslav's Cosic on Origins, Evolution of Conflict *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 May]* 7
Kozyrev Comments on Possible Partition of Bosnia *[SEGODNYA 25 May]* 8
Kozyrev Interview on Diplomatic Initiative in Balkans *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 30 May]* 9
START II Criticized as Serving U.S. National Interests *[FEDERATSIYA 25 May]* 11
Russian-U.S. Joint Enterprise To Develop Oilfields *[Moscow TV]* 11
16 U.S. Pilots Missing in North Korea Transferred To USSR *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
'Extremely Hostile Confrontation' Seen Between U.S., Iran *[Moscow International]* 12
Russo-American Business Conference Under Way *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Current Issues 13
Discusses Yugoslav Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Expresses Hope for Guatemala Dialogue *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Notes Anniversary of Kazakh Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Yeltsin, Tajikistan's Rakhmonov Comment on Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Tajik Leader Interviewed *[Radio Rossii]* 14
Leaders Answer Questions *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Other Documents Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Leaders Hail Treaty Signing *[Moscow TV]* 15
Yeltsin, Armenia's Ter-Petrosyan Discuss Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Russian-Kazakh Interparliamentary Commission Meeting Ends *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Kasatonov Persuades Estonians on Paldiski Base Withdrawal *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 17
Latest Round of Talks With Latvia 'Successful' *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 17
Agreement Reached on Troop Withdrawal From Lithuania *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 25 May]* 17
Kozyrev Favors Partnership With African Nations *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
ANC's Mbeki Sees No Obstacles To Cooperation With Russia *[Moscow International]* 19
Russian-French Space Crew Prepare for Session Aboard 'Mir' *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Ex-Premier Gaydar Arrives in Japan for Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Comments on Kuril Issue *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
New Cooling by Japan on Bilateral Ties Noted *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 20
NATO Defense Ministers' Meeting in Brussels Viewed *[Moscow International]* 20
Anatoliy Potapov on NATO's Current Military Strategy *[Moscow International]* 21

Gulf Force Destroyer Returns to Pacific Fleet Station *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 21
Russian Unity Bloc Charges G-7 With Anti-Russian Policy *[SEGODNYA 25 May]* 22
Shokhin on Problems in Negotiations With EEC *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Comments on Russia-EC Treaty Problems *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 22
Shokhin Denies Taking Money Belonging to Center in Berlin *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 23

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Chairs Council of Heads of Republics Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Wins Leaders' Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Delivers Speech 26 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Opposition To Hold Own Constitutional Conference 3 Jun *[Russian TV]* 26
Decree on Constitution Congress Participants Issued *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Lobov's Dismissal Called 'Foregone Conclusion' *[SEGODNYA 25 May]* 26
Volkogonov: Put Constitution to Referendum *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 May]* 27
Parties on Terms for Attending Constitutional Conference *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 28
Expert Says New Constitution Essential for Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Constitutional Conference Seen as Another Congress *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 29
National Salvation Front Resolutions Highlighted *[SEGODNYA 25 May]* 30
New Coalition of Centrist Forces Urged *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 30
New Russian Intelligence Magazine Published *[Moscow International]* 31
Constitutional Court Judge on IZVESTIYA Case *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 32

Economic Issues

Fedorov on Cost of Pre-Referendum Decisions *[Radio Rossii]* 33
Economic Data for January-April Cited *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 34
Data Does Not Support 'Optimism' *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 34

Space & Military Issues

'Military Space Forces' Launch Satellite *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Space Industry To Shut Down Buran Shuttle Program *[Moscow TV]* 35
Shokhin Seen Bad for Relations With Military *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 25 May]* 35
Draft Military Doctrine Based on Collective Security *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

Supreme Soviet

Hearings Open 25 May on Draft Constitution *[Radio Rossii]* 36
Khasbulatov To Meet All Deputies by 31 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Air Defense Forces Commander Testifies in Committee *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 May]* 37

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov's Visit to Novgorod Summarized *[Moscow Radio]* 37
Dudayev Nephew Said To Have Died in Car Accident *[Radio Rossii]* 37
Anti-Dudayev Forces Reportedly Unite *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Yakutia Spurns Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 38
Yakutia, Tatarstan Want Independence Recognized *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 38
Regional Chief Outlines Path to Constitution *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 May]* 39
More on Vice Premier Shakhray Visit to Siberia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 41
Congress of Ossetian People Held 21-22 May *[Tbilisi Radio]* 41
Buryat Leaders Favor Referendum on Combined Draft *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 41
Saransk Conference Scores Mordovian Ex-President *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 42
Krasnoyarsk Banned From Nuclear Plant Production *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 42

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Official Reviews Arms Treaty Talks in U.S., Canada *[Kiev International]* 43
Peace Organizations Urge Ratification of Arms Treaties *[Kiev International]* 43
Kiev To Consider Ships Flying Russian Flags 'Foreign' *[Moscow TV]* 43
Defense Ministry Denies Black Sea Fleet Commander's Dismissal *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Further on Visit by Poland's President Walesa *[Moscow Radio]* 43
Walesa Tours Galicia *[ITAR-TASS]* 44

National Affairs

Commission Investigates Zaporozhye Nuclear Accident *[UKRINFORM]* 44
Repair Workers' 'Negligence' Blamed for Explosion *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 45
President Specifies Ways To Combat Drug Trade *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 22 May]* 45

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

President in 'Conflict' With Foreign Ministry, Premier *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 47
Nuclear Materials Reportedly Smuggled to Middle East *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 23 May]* 47
Supreme Soviet Discusses Electoral Law *[Minsk Radio]* 48

Moldova

Snegur, Russian Ambassador Discuss Relations, Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 48
Snegur Comments on State of Economy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 48
Official Surmises Russian Troop Withdrawal in 1994 *[Radio Rossii]* 49
Lucinschi Denies Nation's Military Intentions *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 49
Dniester Supreme Soviet Chairman Notes 'Concession' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 50
Gagauz Deputies Walk Out of Parliament Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 50

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Indian Prime Minister Visits, Signs Cooperation Pacts *[Almaty Radio]* 51
Rao on Economic, Technical Cooperation *[Delhi International]* 51
Rao, Nazarbayev News Conference *[Delhi International]* 51
Foreign Minister, Russian Envoy Discuss Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Vice President, British Ambassador Discuss Cooperation *[KAZTAG]* 52
Delegation Returns From Interparliamentary Assembly *[Almaty Radio]* 52

Tajikistan

Defense Minister Says Russian Border Troops 'Necessary' *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Increasing Numbers of 'Insurgents' Surrender *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Five Infiltrators Killed on Afghan Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Government Signs Tripartite Initiative on Karabakh *[SNARK]* 54
20,000 Reportedly Protest Turkish Role as Negotiator *[SNARK]* 54
Opposition Deputies Send Message of Support to Milosevic *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Opposition Party Urges Stronger Ties With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Foreign Minister Departs for Greece 24 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Iranian Delegation Briefs Vice President on Talks *[Yerevan International]* 55

Azerbaijan

Government Signs Tripartite Plan on Karabakh *[TURAN]* 55
Foreign Minister on Peace Proposals *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Nagorno-Karabakh Rejects Plan *[Russian TV]* 56
Defense Ministry Communique on Cease-Fire *[Baku Radio]* 56
Turkey To Supply 22,000 Tons of Diesel Oil to Nakhichevan *[Baku Radio]* 56
Supreme Court Opposes Clemency for Russian Servicemen *[Radio Rossii]* 56
Egyptian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives *[TURAN]* 56
Elchibey Announces Cooperation Plans *[ITAR-TASS]* 57

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

President Views Ties With Russia, Poland *[Warsaw TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC 21 May]* 58
Meri Discusses Troop Withdrawal With Russian Official *[Tallinn Radio]* 59
Interior Minister Tours Southeast, Comments on Talks *[Tallinn Radio]* 59

Latvia

No Confidence Motion in Prime Minister Voted Down *[Riga Radio]* 59
Russian Envoy Says 'Complications' May Slow Troop Withdrawal *[Riga Radio]* 60

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

FBIS-SOV-93-100-A *26 May 1993*

CONTENTS

ANNEX

Russia International Affairs

Kozyrev Calls For Attracting Foreign Investment *[INTERFAX]* 1
Kozyrev, Ambartsumov React to Japanese Criticism *[INTERFAX]* 1
Khasbulatov on Baltic Border, Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 1
Armenia's Ter-Petrosyan on Yeltsin Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 2
Spokesman Says Kabul Embassy Burglarized *[INTERFAX]* 2
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Briefs Press on Current Issues 2
Comments on Europe Conference, Cuba *[INTERFAX]* 2
Notes U.S. Meeting on FRY *[INTERFAX]* 3
Yeltsin Comments at Signing Ceremony With Tajik President *[INTERFAX]* 3
Official on 'Historic' Document *[INTERAX]* 4
Kiev Appeal To Send Admiral to Ukraine Studied *[INTERFAX]* 4
Moscow Not To Cut Off Oil Supplies to Belarus *[INTERFAX]* 4
Swiss Ask for Information on Army Unit *[RIA]* 5
Economic Trade Agreements Signed With Argentina *[INTERFAX]* 5
Sea of Okhotsk Closed to Foreign Fishermen 15 Jun *[INTERFAX]* 5

Russia National Affairs

Yeltsin Explains Federation Treaty's Stages *[INTERFAX]* 5
Further Khasbulatov Comments on Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 6
Poltoranin Appears Before Constitutional Court *[RIA]* 6
Wants Resolution Recognized *[RIA]* 7
Opposition Not To Attend Constitutional Assembly *[INTERFAX]* 7
Conference May Become Constitutional Assembly *[INTERFAX]* 7
Constitutional Commission To Submit Draft 5 Jun *[INTERFAX]* 8
Parliament Official on Opposition to Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 8
Foreign Ministry Refuses To Supply Policy Paper *[INTERFAX]* 8
Ministry Reacts to Criticism *[INTERFAX]* 9
Reaction to Decree Lifting Oil Regulation *[INTERFAX]* 9
Organized Crime Nets $18-20 Billion Per Year *[INTERFAX]* 9
Government Sets Goal for Curbing Inflation *[INTERFAX]* 9
Armed Clash, Civilian Casualties in Groznyy *[INTERFAX]* 10
Chechen Commandant on Disarming 'Illegal' Groups *[INTERFAX]* 10
Tatarstan President Seeks Treaty With Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 10

Ukraine

Vessel Flags 'Gross Violation' of Agreements *[INTERFAX]* 11

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov To Meet With French President *[INTERFAX]* 11

Armenia

Foreign Minister To Visit Athens, London, Paris *[INTERFAX]* 11

Georgia

Shevardnadze To Visit Beijing, Almaty, Ashgabat *[INTERFAX]* 11

Estonia

Minister, Russian Deputy Minister Discuss Ties *[BALTFAX]* 12
Plan To Resettle Ex-Officers in Russia Endorsed *[BALTFAX]* 12
Prime Minister Statement by Russia's Khasbulatov *[BALTFAX]* 12

Latvia

Deputies Reject Motion To Remove Prime Minister *[INTERFAX]* 13

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-101 *27 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Shaposhnikov Interviewed on Military Reform Plan *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 30 May]* 1
Tajik Official on Border Troops Pact With CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Black Sea Sailors Urge Confirmation of Status *[Moscow TV]* 2
'Latest Events' Surrounding Black Sea Fleet *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 2
Industrial Chiefs To Analyze Kazakhstan's Industry *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Interparliamentary Assembly Adopts Three Documents *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 3
Four Former USSR Republics Become IOM Observers *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 May 4

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Opposition to Russian Arms Sales Economically Based *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 May]* 5
Churkin Gives News Conference on Bosnia *[Zagreb DANAS 21 May]* 5
Mig-23's To Be Withdrawn From Kuril Island *[Moscow Radio]* 6
Gaydar in Tokyo, Cited on Domestic Situation *[IZVESTIYA 27 May]* 6
Defense Minister Talks With South Korean Ambassador *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
DPRK Envoy Says United Kingdom, France Threaten Peace *[Moscow International]* 7
Russian Delegation Meets Vietnamese Entrepreneurs *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Officials Hold Talks To Aid Tkvarcheli, Sukhumi Populations *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Tighter Controls on Georgian Border Explained *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 8
Russian Ships at Kerch Naval Base Hoist St. Andrew's Flag *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Leaders of Border Regions With Ukraine To Cooperate *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 9
Azerbaijan Faces Difficult Decision Over 'Saboteurs' *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 9
Khasbulatov Addresses Russo-Arab Forum *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 10
Commentary Views Velayati's Persian Gulf Tour *[Moscow International]* 14
UK Grants Credits; EC Yet To Agree on Trade *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 14
Official Says Portuguese Premier Visit Postponed *[Lisbon Radio]* 15
Law Enforcement Cooperation Discussed With Italian Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
START II's Economic, Political Impact Eyed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 May]* 16
Commentary on North Atlantic Assembly Meeting *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 30 May]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Chairs Presidium Meeting on Privatization *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
'Hard Work' Needed *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Reforms 'Must Not Stop' *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Changes in Industry Viewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
More on Privatization *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Draft Program Endorsed *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Report of 27 May Deputies' Conference Denied *[Moscow TV]* 21
Yeltsin Edict on Moscow Rallies Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 21
Kozyrev Addresses Foreign Policy Council Session *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Burbulis on New Party, Civic Union *[Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE 24 May]* 22
Poll on Reform, Leaders, Media Trustworthiness *[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 26 May]* 23
More on Court Hearings on Congress Media Decision 23
Fedotov Urges 'Unconstitutional' Ruling *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Court Says Decision Legal *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
More on Court Decision *[ITAR-TASS]* 24

Poltoranin's Media Center Abolished *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Fedotov Calls For TV To Be Free From Politics *[ITAR-TASS]* 25

Constitution Issues

More on Council of Heads of Republics Meeting 25
Statement Issued on Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 May]* 25
'Unprecedented Toughness' in Regions *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 26
Kostikov: Meeting Victory for Yeltsin *[Russian TV]* 26
Further Kostikov Comment *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 27 May]* 26
Federation Treaty Discussed *[IZVESTIYA 27 May]* 27
'Alternative Constitutional Conference' To Meet 3 Jun *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Rutskoy Says He Was Not Invited to Conference *[Radio Rossii]* 27
Deputies Call For Single 'Coordinated' Draft *[PRAVDA 26 May]* 28
Constitutional Conference Process Questioned *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 28
Some Opposition Deputies Advocate 'Boycott' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 May]* 29
'Russian Unity' on Constitutional Conference *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 30
Faction Wants Constitution Based on Federation Treaty *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 30
'Emphasis' Shifting From Republics to Local Authorities *[SEGODNYA 25 May]* 31
Commentary Supports 'Third Way' on Constitution *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 May]* 31
Opinion Poll Shows Support for Yeltsin's Draft *[Moscow TV]* 32

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin Directive on Commemorating War Victims *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 33
Yeltsin Congratulates Border Guards *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Grachev Signs Directive on Service Contracts *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 33
Leaders Assess District, Fleet Combat Readiness *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 33
Military Production Conversion Strategy Viewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Details of 'Molniya-1' Satellite Launch Given *[ITAR-TASS]* 34

Economic Issues

Vice Premier Addresses Agricultural Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Progress of Privatization Process Reviewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 35
State Privatization Program 'By No Means' Fulfilled *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 36
End of 'Unnaturally Low' Gas Prices Brings Problems *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 36

Supreme Soviet

Constitutional Commission Official on 'Two Drafts' *[Moscow Radio]* 37
Details of Hearings on Draft Constitution *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 37
Law Adopted on Additions to Criminal Code *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 May]* 38
24 May Presidium Session Called 'Fruitful' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 38
Savings Bank Vice President Testifies in Committee *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 39

Regional Affairs

Russian Ministry Staff Fired Upon in North Ossetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Ingush Official Calls Ossetian Letter 'Provocation' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 39
Chechnya Referendum on Dudayev Expected To Go Ahead *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 May]* 40
Chechen Leaders Try To Ease Conflict Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Latest Events in Chechnya Reported *[IZVESTIYA 27 May]* 41
Privatization Now 'Irreversible' in St. Petersburg *[Russian TV]* 42
Mordovian President Confident of Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Shakhray Predicts 'Rapprochement' in Talks With Tatarstan *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 42
Kalmyk Parliament Debates Constitutional Blueprint *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 43
Chelyabinsk Governorship Election Protested *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 43
Komi Company Starts Arctic Oil Privatization Process *[Russian TV]* 43
Toxins Stored in Udmurtia To Be Destroyed There *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 May]* 43
Krasnoyarsk Kray Timber Industry 'Desperate' *[Russian TV]* 44

New Type of Thermal Generator Developed in Far East *[Vladivostok Radio]* 44

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Peace Council, Fund Urge Parliament To Ratify START I *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 May]* 45
Russia's Shokhin 'Optimistic' on Economic Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Navy Officers Protest Russian Flags on Black Sea Ships *[UNIAN]* 45
Poland's Walesa, Kravchuk Brief Press on Talks *[Kiev International]* 45
Regional Security Document Presented *[Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA 24 May]* 46
Walesa Opposes Security Zone Idea *[Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA 26 May]* 47
Walesa 'Not Satisfied' *[Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY 26 May]* 48

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Addresses Republican Congress of Engineers *[KAZTAG]* 49
Tereschenko Talks With French Business Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Kyrgyzstan

U.S. State Department Official Visits Osh *[Bishkek Radio]* 50
Businessmen Condemn Introduction of National Currency *[KYRGYZKABAR]* 50
'Chaos,' 'Suspicion' Over New Currency *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 May]* 50

Uzbekistan

Karimov Comments on Economy, Relations With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Karimov Criticizes Kyrgyz Leaders Over New Currency *[UZBEKISTAN APN]* 51
Presidential Edict Creates Space Research Agency *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 25 May]* 51

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President Issues Statement on Peace Plan *[Yerevan Radio]* 52
Deputy Minister Comments on Signing Peace Plan *[SNARK]* 52

Azerbaijan

Gasymov Talks With Envoys on Karabakh Peace Plan *[TURAN]* 52
Further on Karabakh's Rejection of Peace Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
State of Emergency Extended Two Months *[TURAN]* 53
Egyptian Group Meets Deputy Premier, Discusses Ties *[Baku Radio]* 53

Georgia

Shevardnadze Decree Appoints Senior Military Officials *[Tbilisi Radio]* 54
Appoints New Commander of Tskhinvali Forces
[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 21 May] 54
Parliament Decrees Adherence to UN Convention on Genocide
[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 20 May] 54
Shevardnadze Gives Overview of Abkhazia Conflict *[Moscow TV]* 54
Five Crew Members Killed in Russian Helicopter Crash *[Moscow TV]* 55
Ukrainian Mercenaries Reportedly Brought to Sukhumi Area
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 May] 55

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Russian Deputy Minister Gives News Conference *[Tallinn Radio]* 56
Views Failure To Arrange Summit *[Tallinn International]* 56
Nation Clashes With Ukraine at Council of Europe Session *[Tallinn International]* 56

Latvia

Swedish Defense Minister Donates Military Equipment
[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 18 May] 57
Russian Troop Withdrawal From Valmiera Suspended *[Riga Radio]* 57

Lithuania

Brazauskas Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Issues *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Brazauskas Comments on Economic Reforms, Russian Ties *[Russian TV]* 59
Brazauskas on 'Promising' Prospects for Ties With Ukraine *[Kiev International]* 60
Brazauskas Accepts Resignation of Trade, Industry Minister *[Vilnius Radio]* 60
Diplomatic Relations Established With Syria *[Vilnius Radio]* 60

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-102 *28 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CSCE Meets at North Ossetian Council of Ministers *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Moscow Authorities Close Four Refugee Camps for Africans *[AFP]* 1
CBR Official at International Forum on Economy *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Moscow Hosts Conference on Armed Forces Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Russia Joins European Conference of Transport Ministers *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Pacific Council Representatives Arrive in Khabarovsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Struggle Around Black Sea Navy 'Coming to a Head' *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Joint Baltic Military Exercises Begin Near Riga *[Tallinn Radio]* 4
Baltic Republics Seek Foreign Aid for Nuclear Power Station *[IZVESTIYA 27 May]* 4
Baltic Assembly Presidium Session Begins *[Riga Radio]* 5
Russia Promises Troop Withdrawal From Baltics by End of 1993 *[Tallinn International]* 5
Armed Forces Logistics Committee Holds First Sitting 26 May *[Almaty Radio]* 5
Economic Chiefs Discuss Foreign Economic Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Russian-Ukrainian Talks End; No Gas Price Agreement Reached *[Moscow TV]* 5
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 May 6

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mayak Plant Ships First Load of Plutonium to U.S. *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Scientist Sees U.S.-Russia Military Plot *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 30 May]* 7
Opposition Says Sevastopol 'Integral Part' of Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Black Sea Fleet Sailors Feel 'Abandoned' *[Moscow TV]* 9
Commentary on Black Sea Fleet Dispute *[Moscow Radio]* 9
Admiral Says Naval Structures Must Remain in Baltics *[Vilnius Radio]* 10
NWGF Commander Protests to Estonian President *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 May]* 10
Economic Agreements Signed With Moldova *[Moscow Radio]* 10
Georgia Used 'Blackmail' To Recruit Spies in Russia *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 27 May]* 11
Military Provisions of Treaty With Tajikistan Outlined *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 May]* 11
Military Collaboration Questioned *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 12
Foreign Ministry Concerned About Developments in Guatemala *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
State Supports Draft on Funding UN Forces in Cyprus *[AFP]* 13
Russia Takes Over Soviet Commitments to Vietnam *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Minister Complains of Western Economic Blockade *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Further on Glazyev Comment *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 27 May]* 14
IMF Credit Terms Highlight Need for Government-Bank Accord *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 14
NATO Organs Discuss Yugoslavia, European Security *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 May]* 15

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Constitution Issues

Yeltsin Meets With Heads of Local Administrations 16
Rules Out Congress' Adoption of Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Leaders 'Unequivocally' Support Yeltsin Draft *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Paper Publishes Council of Republics Statement *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 17
'Statement' Denounced as 'Forgery' *[IZVESTIYA 28 May]* 18
ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Version *[28 May]* 18
Comparison of Yeltsin Speech to Heads of Republics 19
Constitutional Conference Preparations Near Completion *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Voronin Views Yeltsin's Draft Constitution *[Russian TV]* 20
Ryabov on Constitution's Draft, Adoption *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 27 May]* 22

Regional Leaders Want Single Constitutional Draft *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 27 May]* 23
Opposition Creates Committee To Defend Constitution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 24
Ispravnikov on Prospects for Constitutional Conference
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 27 May] 24
Constitutional Court Deputy Chairman Interviewed *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 25

Political Issues
Yeltsin Speech to Government Presidium Cited *[IZVESTIYA 28 May]* 27
More on Yeltsin Speech *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 28 May]* 28
Rutskoy Claims Constitutional Rights Violated *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Media Barred Entry to Kremlin *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Filatov Argues for 'Democratic Coalition' *[IZVESTIYA 27 May]* 30
Civic Union's Lipitskiy on Political Crisis *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 32
Poltoranin: Court 'Instrument' of Supreme Soviet *[ITAR-TASS]* 34

Military & Space Issues
Defense Enterprise Creates 'Superlight' Rocket Booster *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Grachev Addresses 22 May Leadership Conference *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 35
Gorizont Satellite Not in 'Calculated Orbit' *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

Economic Issues
Government Moves To Tighten Customs Control *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 27 May]* 36
Ministries Discuss Development of Fuel, Energy Sector *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Foreign Trade Figures in First Quarter Reported *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 26 May]* 36

Supreme Soviet
'Teams of Experts' To Consider Constitution Proposals *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Parliament Rejects Yeltsin Amendments to Grain Law *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 May]* 37
ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Views 24 May Presidium Session *[26 May]* 37
20 May Supreme Soviet Proceedings Detailed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 May]* 38

Regional Affairs
Talks Held With Tatarstan in Moscow to Draft Treaty 40
Yeltsin Talks With Shaymiyev *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Yeltsin Press Service on Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Khasbulatov Appeals to People of Chechnya *[Moscow Radio]* 40
Chechen Court Rules on Dudayev's Actions *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Khasbulatov in Pskov, Says Russia Will 'Never' Give Back Petseri *[BNS]* 42
Further on Khasbulatov Visit to Pskov *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 42
Arrives in Samara *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Visit to Novgorod Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 43
Regions Seen Striving For Power *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 30 May]* 44
Supreme Economic Council Head Stresses Irkutsk's Importance *[Radio Rossii]* 44
Government Called on To Restrict Foreign Mining Investments *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

UKRAINE

International Affairs
Defense Ministry Denies Mercenaries in Georgia *[Kiev International]* 46
Hungarian Defense Minister Arrives for Visit *[Kiev Radio]* 46
Holds Talks With Morozov *[Kiev International]* 46
Communique Issued on Polish President's Visit *[Kiev International]* 46
Official Views Increased Cost of Russian Hydrocarbons *[Moscow Radio]* 47

National Affairs
Kravchuk Proposes Plyushch for Vice President *[UNIAN]* 47
Kuchma Said To Reiterate Request for Dismissal *[UNIAN]* 47
Kuchma on 'Extremely Difficult' Agricultural Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Kravchuk on Economic Reform, Future Moves *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 47
Second Power Unit at Zaporozhye Nuclear Plant Down *[Kiev International]* 48

Symposium Concludes Chernobyl's Work To Continue *[UKRINFORM]* 48
Crimean Parliament Adopts 1993 Budget *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 25 May]* 49

WESTERN REGION

Moldova
Snegur, Russian Military Official Meet *[BASAPRESS]* 50
Gagauzia Insists on Self-Determination *[BASAPRESS]* 50
Parliament Switches Bills on Gagauz Status *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 May]* 50
Lucinschi on Efforts To Solve Gagauz Issue *[BASAPRESS]* 50
IMF Mission Arrives To Discuss Assistance *[ITAR-TASS]* 51

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan
Rakhmonov Positive Over Ties With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Incidents on Afghan Border Continue *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 May]* 52

Turkmenistan
Niyazov Visits France, Meets With Mitterrand, Others *[Moscow Radio]* 52

Uzbekistan
Karimov Holds Talks With Visiting Kyrgyz President *[Tashkent Radio]* 53
Colonel Outlines Armed Forces Development *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 May]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia
Government, Karabakh Comment on Peace Plan 56
Abrahamyan Notes Government's 'Willingness' *[SNARK]* 56
Kocharyan Notes 'Lack of Security' *[SNARK]* 56
Prime Minister Visits UK, Signs Agreements *[ITAR-TASS]* 56

Georgia
Shevardnadze, Iran's Velayati Hold 'Confidential' Talks
[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY] 56
View Relations *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Rafsanjani Sends Greetings *[Tbilisi Radio]* 57
Shevardnadze Orders Development of Private Enterprise
[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 20 May] 57
Ioseliani Urges Formation of Paramilitary Corps *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 28 May]* 58
Gotsiridze Views Currency, Economic Reform *[REZONANSI 15-16 May]* 58

BALTIC STATES

Lithuania
Sweden's Defense Minister on Creating 'Common Security System' *[BNS]* 61
Minister Proposes Economic Policy Innovations *[LIETUVOS AIDAS 8 May]* 61

CSCE Meets at North Ossetian Council of Ministers

LD2605101793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 26 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Shanayev and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 26 TASS—The road to peace and concord in the region lies in a dialogue between opposing parties and in meeting halfway each other, a mission of representatives from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] was quoted as saying at the North Ossetian Council of Ministers.

The mission included diplomats from the United States, Britain and Germany. They were interested in the North Ossetian Republic's position on a settlement in South Ossetia and the situation in the Prigorodnyy district in North Ossetia.

Despite the fact that Russian peace keepers fully control the situation in the state of emergency zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, the situation in the area remains very tense.

The interim administration registered several local firing engagements over the past 24 hours in the Prigorodnyy district, the centre of the armed conflict. There was no information about casualties.

The Interior Ministries of North Ossetia and Ingushetia recorded 17 crimes. Twenty people were detained in the zone for administrative violations, and 2,000 motor vehicles were searched.

According to information from the press centre of the North Ossetian Interior Ministry, unidentified suspects put into circulation in the republic a large batch of counterfeit bills with a denomination of 10,000 roubles.

Moscow Authorities Close Four Refugee Camps for Africans

AU2705140193 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 27 (AFP)—Moscow regional authorities have closed four refugee camps for Africans in the past few days, leaving 1,000 Somalis, Ethiopians and Angolans without shelter, western aid workers said Thursday [27 May].

There were seven camps to start with, holding 2,500 refugees in rest homes in the suburbs of the Russian capital. They are being looked after by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and a French non-governmental charity called Equilibre.

The rest home managers were under pressure from regional authorities who did not want illegal immigrant refugees on their doorstep, even though the camp inmates had just been given refugee status, explained Dominique Lambert of the French group.

She said traditional Russian xenophobia was combining with an administrative vacuum to create problems.

Russia had signed the Geneva convention on refugees, and President Boris Yeltsin's office had put out a generous law on immigration, but administrators were unaware of it and so it was not being put into effect, Lambert said.

A graphic illustration of the situation was provided by three coachloads of Somali women and children stuck outside the offices of the Russian federal immigration service in Moscow.

There were 130 of them, sent away from Rumiantsevo camp west of the city because Russian tourists had made reservations to stay at the rest house and would be arriving in the next few days, the camp chief said.

The immigration service had suggested alternative accommodation at Chekhova camp far from Moscow, but there were already 500 refugees there, said UNHCR special envoy Cecile Lapierre. She noted that in addition to the refugees, there were 20,000 Africans, Afghanis and Iraqis camping out in railway stations and airports, or wandering the streets, but the UNHCR could do nothing for them.

Immigration service head Yuri Arkhipov said it was obliged to give housing priority to millions of registered refugees from the old Soviet Union.

CBR Official at International Forum on Economy

LD2605182193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 26 May 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—"A joint statement on the economic policy of the government and the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) contains tough restrictions for monetary and credit policy, the realisation of which might cause serious problems," Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the CBR, said at an international forum "world experience and Russian economy" today.

According to Khandruyev, CBR Chairman Viktor Geraschenko has not yet signed a technical supplement to the statement, which contains concrete criteria for financial stabilisation, worked out an agreement with IMF experts. The reason for the delay is that the supplement contains too detailed figures on the monetary-credit emission, which cannot be fulfilled taking into account realities of the Russian economy. According to Khandruyev, "the CBR does not want to lead a double game undertaking commitments it cannot fulfill for the sake of obtaining the first part of the IMF reserve credit, but considers it necessary to take principal steps for the stabilisation of the financial system and support its declarations by pursuing realistic policies."

Central Eurasia
ANNEX

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CONTENTS

ANNEX

Interregional Affairs

Baltic Assembly Presidium Meeting Held in Riga *[BALTFAX]* 1

Russia International Affairs

EC Official Dismisses Charges of Trade War Against Country *[INTERFAX]* 1
Kozyrev Slated To Meet Finnish Foreign Minister *[INTERFAX]* 1
Moldovan Prime Minister Seeking Credit for '93 *[INTERFAX]* 2
Talks With Georgia, Abkhazia End in Agreement *[RIA]* 2
Petroleum Talks With Ukraine Detailed *[INTERFAX]* 2
Bosnia Representative Rejects Peace Plan *[INTERFAX]* 3

Russia National Affairs

Yeltsin Trying To 'Remove' Rutskoy From Power 3
Rutskoy Protests *[INTERFAX]* 3
Rutskoy Says Events Not Reform Related *[INTERFAX]* 4
Spokesman Assails News Conference Ban *[INTERFAX]* 4
Rutskoy Discusses Current Reform Situation *[INTERFAX]* 4
Says Yeltsin Promises 'Swindling' Nation *[INTERFAX]* 5
Yeltsin Offers Deal for National Consensus *[INTERFAX]* 5
Baburin on Yeltsin Barring Lukyanov From Forum *[INTERFAX]* 6
Mordovia President Backs Yeltsin Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 6
Court Experts Criticize Yeltsin Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 7
Yeltsin: 'No Place' for Congress in Constitution *[INTERFAX]* 7
Press Service 'Has Refuted' 'Misinformation' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Bank Chairman Signs Structural Changes Annex *[INTERFAX]* 7
Working Group To Refine Privatization Program *[INTERFAX]* 8
Privatization Vouchers Up After Yeltsin Decree *[INTERFAX]* 8
Grachev Assesses Army's Readiness, Structure *[INTERFAX]* 8
100,000 Sign Contracts To Serve in Army *[INTERFAX]* 11
Supreme Soviet Official Gives News Conference *[INTERFAX]* 11
Chechen Referendum Possible 'Peak of Confrontation' *[INTERFAX]* 12
Tatarstan's Shaymiyev on Relations With Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 12

Ukraine

Agreements With Russia Signed in Kiev *[INTERFAX]* 13
Yugoslav Sanctions Cost Over $2 Billion *[INTERFAX]* 13
Kravchuk Speaks on Cabinet, Agricultural Issues *[INTERFAX]* 14

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Kyrgyzstan's Akayev Hold News Conference *[INTERFAX]* 14

Azerbaijan

Clinton Sends Independence Day Congratulations *[INTERFAX]* 14

Lithuania

Minister Explains Russian Weapons Purchase *[BALTFAX]* 15

VIDEO COMPILATION LIST

Video Tapes Available From FBIS TV Center 15

Interregional Affairs

Baltic Assembly Presidium Meeting Held in Riga

OW2705192893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1606 GMT 27 May 93—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting of the presidium of the Baltic Assembly, an interparliamentary deliberative body encompassing Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, was held in Riga today. The meeting was attended by the parliamentary leaders form the three republics: Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council Anatoliys Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Lithuanian Sejm Ceslovas Jursenas and Estonian State Assembly Chairman Ulo Nugis.

The participants established that over nearly one and a half years of the assembly's existence its decisions had been purely non-binding. Only a small part of them has been put into practice. The parliamentarians believe that the Baltic Assembly should eventually become a principal institution regulating relations not only between the parliaments of the three states, but also between their executive branches of power.

On a proposal by the Lithuanian delegation, the procedure and the Charter of the Baltic Assembly will be amended to allow representatives of governments take part in its work, and its decisions to have legal force.

"It is necessary that the Baltic Assembly be analogous to most inter-parliamentary structures in Europe," Lithuanian Deputy Speaker Egidijus Bickauskas pointed out at the press conference.

Amending the procedure and the Charter will be the focus of the plenary session of the Baltic Assembly to be held in Tallinn in late October. Today's meeting discussed the position of the Baltic states at the future conference of Baltic Basin States in Warsaw where Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia intend to put forward environmental issues.

Estonian and Lithuanian representatives hoped that mutual cooperation between the three states would not weaken after the parliamentary elections in Lithuania scheduled for June 5-6.

Russia International Affairs

EC Official Dismisses Charges of Trade War Against Country

OW2705162493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 27 May 93—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy head of the EC Commission mission in Moscow, Hansjorg Kretschmer dismissed at an interview with Interfax the statement by Russian Foreign Economic Minister Sergey Glazyev that the EC continue a trade war against Russia.

At a briefing in Moscow on May 26, Glazyev stated that Russian goods, in particular, chemicals, aluminium, uranium suffered discrimination. "Wherever Russia is competitive, instead of support from the EC we face discrimination," he said.

The minister also pointed out that the EC were reluctant at the negotiations on Russia's joining the GATT.

According to Kretschmer, there is no trade war against Russia on the part of the EC, as the bilateral agreement being prepared provides for import liberalization for Russian goods.

Commenting on Russia's joining GATT, the diplomat reminded that Moscow has failed to officially apply for being admitted to the organization, and to speak of obstacles made by the EC would be premature.

Asked about the focus of the negotiations between Russian Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin with Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen in Copenhagen, the EC official suggested that the sides discussed political aspects of the EC-Russian agreement. In his opinion, at present technical issues are being resolved at the expert level. The next 5th round of their negotiations was scheduled for June 9-11 in Brussels.

Kozyrev Slated To Meet Finnish Foreign Minister

OW2705151893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 27 May 93—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[By diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon his arrival in Moscow Thursday [27 May] night, Finnish Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto, appointed to the post in early May, is scheduled to meet (tentatively at noon) with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

As a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official, handling relations with Finland, has told an INTERFAX correspondent, the working visit is explorative in nature, although during the upcoming talks the sides may "focus on bilateral ties and international issues," the Yugoslav crisis included.

In addition, as the official indicated, the ministers will discuss Russia's contacts with the Baltic countries, among them Estonia. Finland maintains particularly close relations with that country, where, as Russian